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Japan

Tokyo To Exclude Rice From Tariffication Plan

OW2602103092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan will exclude rice from its tariffication plan under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, officials said Wednesday.

The officials said the Japanese Government made the decision at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

A senior government source said before the meeting that the Japanese tariffication plan calls for an average 24 percent tariff reduction on more than 1,000 farm product categories, excluding rice, starch, and dairy products.

The source said the Japanese proposal will be submitted by March 1 to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade under whose aegis the multilateral trade negotiations have been held.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Comments

OW2602112592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan will maintain its near total ban on rice imports by refusing to convert its import curbs into tariffs under the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, officials said Wednesday.

The officials said the Japanese Government made the decision at a top-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and attended by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu.

The decision was aimed at demonstrating Japan's opposition to opening its rice market, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato.

Although Japan imports many other foods, it bans rice imports on the grounds it must be self-sufficient in the staple food.

The government's decision came amid politically sensitive periods in Japan, the United States and Europe as well as a continuing row over agricultural export subsidies between the U.S. and the 12-nation European Community (EC).

It also came despite warnings from Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), that the Uruguay Round, launched in 1986, is on the verge of collapse because of reluctance by major trading countries such as Japan, the U.S. and EC member countries to start liberalizing their agricultural markets.

Dunkel has proposed that GATT member countries switch all import restrictions to tariffs, a process called tariffication.

A senior government source said before Wednesday's meeting that the Japanese tariffication plan calls for an average 24 percent tariff reduction on more than 1,000 farm product categories, excluding rice, starch, and dairy products.

The source said the Japanese proposal will be submitted by March 1 to GATT, under whose aegis the Uruguay Round is being held.

By excluding rice from the Japanese tariffication plan, Miyazawa is gambling that the farm trade impasse will continue for the time being and that Japan should not make a hasty move to liberalize its rice market, government sources said.

In addition to a "money politics" scandal involving some of his closest allies in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Miyazawa's governing party faces a crucial upper house by-election in rice- growing Miyagi Prefecture on March 8.

Kato told reporters after the talks, "Japan has decided its position. As Director General Dunkel has said, it is natural that each country will present its own position. I ardently hope that the Uruguay Round will reach a successful conclusion."

He said Japan would continue to press for allowing exceptions to the tariffication rule.

Government sources said that they do not expect Japan to be singled out for failing to accept the GATT proposal because the U.S. and the EC are also unlikely to fully meet its requirements.

According to the sources, Japan's tariffication plan will outline a seven-year timetable starting in 1993 to reduce tariffs by an average 24 percent, compared to the 36 percent cut Dunkel requested.

Japan also will draft a plan for a 20 percent across-the-board reduction in farm subsidies.

Tokyo Plans To Lift Tariffs on 1,000 Imports

OW2602030692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0256 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Geneva, Feb. 25 KYODO—Japan on Tuesday explained to the United States its plan to unilaterally lift tariffs on 1,000 manufactured imports, trade sources said. Tokyo also informed Washington of its intention to cut tariffs by an average of about 50 percent on film, industrial machinery, and other manufactured goods.

Japanese and U.S. trade negotiators discussed the scheme in Geneva during bilateral market access talks, which are part of the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Tokyo will include the items in its list of goods that will have fewer hurdles to clear to enter the country, sources close to the talks said. Japan has until March 1 to present the list to the GATT. Japan said it will submit a similar list regarding imports of agricultural processed goods March 1, they said.

U.S. To Send Civilian Staff to Antisub Center

OW2602005892 Tokyo KYODO in English 2339 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—The U.S. military will station a group of 10 civilian workers at a just-completed Japanese Antisubmarine Warfare Center in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, the ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

The U.S. Navy will also deploy five civilian employees each aboard two Japanese acoustic research ships, the mass circulation daily said. All the Americans are technicians from U.S. firms. The Defense Agency will pay support fees to the United States, the ASAHI said.

The Maritime Self-Defense Force [MSDF] took delivery Tuedsay of the Antisub Warfare Center built at the MSDF Yokosuka Base for a cost of 15 billion yen. The center will accumulate, assess and analyze acoustic data on former Soviet submarines to be collected by acoustic research ships.

Japan promised in 1987 to build the center as part of its efforts to improve antisub capabilities following U.S. accusations that Toshiba Machine Co. sold a sophisticated machine tool to the now defunct Soviet Union. Americans alleged that the machine tool helped lower screw sounds from Soviet submarines.

The Maritime Self-Defense Force has already put a 2,800-ton acoustic research ship into service. It will also inaugurate another ship in March, the ASAHI reported.

Bid To Stop Work on U.S. Facility Refused

OW2602141092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—The Tokyo High Court upheld Wednesday a lower court decision refusing to grant the mayor of Zushi, Kanagawa prefecture, an injunction to stop construction of a facility connected to a housing complex for U.S. military personnel.

In handing down the ruling, Judge Tomoko Tanso said the mayor cannot be the plaintiff in such a civil case and the system for lawsuits is unable to settle disputes between the government and a municipality, unless there is a special stipulation in the law.

Zushi Mayor Kiichiro Tomino filed suit in 1989 against a flood control reservoir in Ikego being built as part of a Japanese Government housing project to accommodate U.S Navy personnel assigned to nearby Yokosuka Naval Station and their families.

Tomino, who was elected on a platform of environmental opposition to the project, has argued the government violated the River Law when it started building the reservoir in September 1989, because no agreement had been reached with the Zushi City Government, which is in charge of the river's management.

Under the law, the construction contractor and the local government supervising rivers must consult one another and reach agreement on how the reservoir will be built and whether it will alter the course of the river.

Tomino has said a lawsuit should settle the dispute between the national government, which is the construction contractor, and the mayor, who is in charge of river management.

Earlier this month, the Yokohama District Court turned down his appeal, saying the city's duty of river management is a task delegated by the government and the issue should be settled between the two.

Tomino said Wednesday's ruling is regrettable and he may appeal the decision.

Science Chief Urges Aid to Russian Scientists

OW2502140792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Jiro Kondo, president of the Science Council of Japan, called Tuesday for assistance and cooperation for Russian scientists following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Kondo said in a statement that Japanese scientists should provide as much aid as possible because the current crisis of scientific studies in the former Soviet Union will have incalculable effects on the world.

The council will consider accepting Russian scientists at research institutions in Japan and further promoting joint study projects, council officials said.

As for nuclear scientists in the former socialist state, the Russian Federation, the United States and Germany have disclosed a plan establishing a nuclear research center in Russia to prevent a nuclear science brain drain to the developing countries.

In connection with his appeal, Kondo told KYODO news service, "the collapse of basic science studies in the former Soviet Union will bring a big loss to mankind as they have been at the top of basic science studies including mathematics, physics, and chemistry. Although Japan cannot accept scientists on military matters, Japan should facilitate cooperation on nonmilitary fields."

Toshiba To Set Up Service Network for CIS

OW2602052292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0425 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. has reached an agreement with a Ukrainian firm to establish a service network for Toshiba's consumer products in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Toshiba officials said Wednesday.

Toshiba, Japan's second-largest, comprehensive electric machinery maker reached the accord with Scientific Productive Commerce Amalgamation, or Electron. Electron, located in the Lvov, Ukraine, is the CIS' largest manufacturer of television sets.

Toshiba will use Electron's nine regional service bases to provide service support for Toshiba's consumer electronic products, the officials said. The terms of a recently signed contract between the two firms were negotiated through the Japanese trading house Mitsui and Co. Service operations are scheduled to begin in March.

Toshiba markets primarily color TVs and videocassette recorders to the CIS. Consumer product-related exports to the region reached 4.5 billion yen in 1991. As sales increased and sales routes became more diversified, Toshiba recognized the need to set up a comprehensive network that offers its customers a full range of service support, they said.

ROK, Russia Fishing Accord Said Regrettable

OW2602050992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0449 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—A senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday that it is extremely regrettable that Russia reached an agreement with South Korea allowing South Korean fishing boats to operate off islands claimed by Japan. Speaking to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Nagao Hyodo, head of the ministry's European and Oceanic Affaris Bureau, added the Japanese Government will respond when it has obtained the details of the situation.

Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday they were concerned about reports that Russia would permit South Korean fishing vessels to operate within 200 nautical miles of its territories, including the waters surrounding the disputed islands of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Japan claims sovereignty over Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group, which were overrun by the Soviet military after the end of World War II. The waters surrounding the islands are considered to be among the richest fishing grounds in the northern Pacific.

Hyodo told lawmakers the ministry would ask both governments for an explanation about the contents of the agreement, including fishing hauls in Japanese waters off Sakhalin and in waters off the so-called "northern territories." He also criticized the Russian Government for granting fishing rights to a third nation even though serious peace treaty negotiations with Tokyo had been initiated.

Hyodo also criticized the South Korean Government for entering into the agreement with Russia after the Japanese Government has explained its position and asked for Seoul's understanding.

Tokyo Asks for Clarification

OW2602145092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan will likely voice its concern to Russia next week over an agreement Russia has made which apparently allows South Korean boats to fish in the 200-mile zone around four disputed islands off Hokkaido, a top Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday.

The source said that the matter is likely to be taken up in a regular session of fisheries talks between Japan and Russia in Tokyo which start March 2.

Earlier in the day, Nagao Hyodo, head of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, told a Diet panel that the Russo-Korean fishery accord is extremely regrettable.

Ministry officials said Tuesday Japan has called on both Russia and South Korea to clarify whether their agreement on joint fishing in Russian-controlled waters, which was signed last September and came into force in October, includes the region around the four islands, which Japan claims.

They said the South Korean Government was also advised of Japan's territorial claims and urged to keep South Korea fishing boats from engaging in joint ventures with Russia in the area near the islands.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told reporters Tuesday that Japan had previously asked South Korea to exercise "self-restraint" and had won its understanding of Japan's position.

Japan obtained a copy of the treaty last year, but the document did not clearly state the specific fishing areas it applied to or what conditions would be involved, the officials said.

Japan and the former Soviet Union never signed a peace treaty to mark the end of World War II because the Soviet Union had occupied the islands, just northeast of Hokkaido, since the end of the war.

NGK Company To Help ROK Group Build Kilns

OW2502130892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1126 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Nagoya, Feb. 25 KYODO—NGK Insulators Ltd. and Daiwa Kogyo K.K., a medium-sized kiln maker, will give technical assistance to a wholly-owned blast furnace manufacturing subsidiary of South Korea's Pohang Iron and Steel Co., officials said Tuesday.

The two companies will give assistance on designing, construction, and operation of various kilns for manufacturing ceramic products.

The Pohang subsidiary is aiming at yearly sales of 1.7 billion yen.

Tokyo To Give Funds for Peacekeepers in Cambodia

OW2602002792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0007 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan will provide 25 million dollars in March to a United Nations peacekeeping body in Cambodia as part of its initial funding, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

The YOMIURI said the amount will be equivalent to Japan's 12.45 percent share in the U.N. budget for the peace effort. The U.N. has asked member states to provide 200 million dollars in initial costs for Cambodian peacekeeping operations. The mass circulation daily, quoting an unidentified Foreign Ministry official, said the U.N. Security Council is expected to approve as early as this week a U.N. plan to send a 26,000-strong peacekeeping mission to Cambodia.

The mission, called the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, will demobilize all factions and oversee elections set for April 1993. U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali put forth the plan last week.

Withdrawal of Proposal for Tuna Curbs Urged

OW2502193992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0747 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Tuesday called on Sweden to drop its proposal to curb international trade in western Atlantic bluefin tuna, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

Officials said Watanabe made the call in a half-hour meeting with Ulf Dinkelspiel, Sweden's minister for European affairs and foreign trade, who left Japan later Tuesday after a six-day unofficial working visit.

Sweden has proposed sharp limits on the bluefin trade.

Watanabe expressed worries that Sweden might sponsor a proposal to ban the trade at the March 2-13 conference in Kyoto of the so-called Washington convention on trade in endangered species.

Watanabe told Dinkelspiel that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is a more appropriate forum for "scientific conservation and management" of the species than the Washington convention, formally called the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna.

Since the ICCAT has concluded that the species is "clearly not on the verge of extinction," Sweden should respect that "authoritative" assessment and withdraw its proposal, Watanabe was quoted as saying.

Dinkelspiel suggested the two countries hold talks on the matter to clarify their positions before the Kyoto conference, the officials said. Watanabe said Japan would consider the idea.

Sweden is not affiliated with the ICCAT and holds that the organization has been ineffective in its stated attempts to conserve the species through quotas on catches.

Dinkelspiel told Watanabe that Sweden aims at gaining full membership in the European Community by 1995 and that his country wants to expand trade and investment ties with Japan in the meantime.

Sanden To Start Joint Production in Thailand

OW2502133192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Sanden Corp. said Tuesday it has agreed with a leading Thai autoparts maker to set up a joint venture in Bangkok to produce car air conditioner parts.

The new venture, Sanden Theco Co., will be capitalized at about 400 million yen. Sanden is to invest 49 percent of the capital, while its Thai partner, the Bangkok-based Thai Heat Exchange Co., will invest 51 percent, Sanden officials said.

The new firm will build a factory on a 4,000 square meter site in the suburbs of Bangkok in the near future and will start producing heat exchangers and assembling compressors and car air conditioners there, the officials said.

Sanden, one of the world's three largest makers of car air conditioners, has previously exported compressors to Thailand through Thai Heat Exchange.

The two companies agreed on the new venture because of an increasing demand for automobile air conditioners in Bangkok, the officials said.

Tokyo To Extend 12.9 Billion-Yen Loan to Panama

OW2602000892 Tokyo KYODO in English 2309 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan will provide Panama with a 12.9 billion yen official development assistance (ODA) loan, its first ever to the country in Central America, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday.

Representatives of the two countries exchanged diplomatic documents on the loan in Panama City on Tuesday local time, the officials said. They said the loans will finance Panama's imports of foreign goods and help support a Panamanian economic rehabilitation project promoted by the World Bank.

The loans, which are to be disbursed from the government's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), will carry an annual interest rate of 3 percent, repayable over 25 years, including a seven-year grace period.

Watanuki Proposes Measure for Electoral Reform

OW2602113992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Sendai, Feb. 26 KYODO—Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), proposed Wednesday that political reform be implemented in two stages.

At a news conference here, he said unconstitutional House of Representatives' seats should be reapportioned, followed by drastic reform of the Japanese electoral system.

Watanuki spoke of the need to overhaul both the 512-seat lower house and the 252-seat House of Councillors.

He was in Sendai to support an LDP candidate in an upper house by-election in Miyagi Prefecture on March 8.

In 1983, the Supreme Court ruled a disparity of three times or greater between lower house electorates violates the Constitution, which guarantees equal rights for all people.

After the ruling, the lower house reassigned its seats to comply with the law. The Diet took emergency measures in May 1986 to correct the imbalance by adding representatives to eight districts while subtracting them from seven.

Watanuki, however, brushed aside a proposal to redress the disparity with cuts of four seats in over-represented rural constituencies and an increase of four seats from under-represented regions.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa also sees the proposal as impossible, Watanuki said, suggesting more drastic reform.

Touching on proposed legislation to allow Japanese military personnel to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Watanuki said the LDP hopes to see the bill enacted during the current Diet session. He said it is essential the bill is passed, considering the nation's cooperation with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), as well as for Japan's own interests.

He said the bill is now before the upper house and the LDP Diet Affairs Committee is considering cooperating with the opposition parties to review it.

Opposition Repeats Call for Abe Diet Appearance

OW2602063392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0600 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Major opposition parties reiterated their demand Wednesday that former State Minister Fumio Abe be summoned to testify in the Diet on the Kyowa bribery scandal. The Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito, the Japanese Communist Party, and the Democratic Socialist Party made the request at separate press conferences.

They also demanded the summoning to the Diet of Goro Moriguchi, former vice president of Kyowa Co., the bankrupt steel frame maker at the center of the scandal. The opposition parties said that following Tuesday's testimony by former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and former State Minister Jun Shiozaki, suspicion surrounding the scandal has deepened.

Suzuki denied receiving money from Kyowa but admitted having "kept temporarily" 10 million yen received from Abe, a former director general of the Hokkaido Development Agency, who was indicted on a charge of taking 90 million yen in bribes from the company.

Suzuki, testifying as an unsworn witness, said he returned the money to Abe two years later after the scandal surfaced. He denied allegations that he received 100 million yen from Kyowa.

Shiozaki, who testified as a sworn witness, acknowledged receiving 20 million yen from Kyowa but said he returned the money to Abe, and denied any involvement in influence-peddling.

Central Bank Governor: Economy To Remain Firm

OW2602074492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0653 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday that the Japanese economy is expected to remain firm for the time being and that he sees little chance of a sudden plunge in the economy.

Mieno also told a regular press conference that the Japanese economy is heading in a desirable direction.

The central bank will maintain a prudent policy carefully watching the effect on the Japanese economy of past cuts in the official discount rate, he said.

As regards the foreign exchange rate, he said the Bank of Japan will take appropriate action in consultation with other nations in the exchange markets if necessary.

Denies Official Discount Rate Cut

OW2602085992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0827 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday he sees no need to further ease monetary policy, splashing cold water on resurging expectations of another cut in the official discount rate.

Mieno told a regular press conference that the easing of the central bank's grip on credit since last July has sufficiently set the monetary conditions required to guide the Japanese economy into balanced and sustainable growth.

The accumulated effects of the monetary easing since last July are steadily pervading the fabric of the economy, Mieno said.

While acknowledging that the economy is decelerating at a faster rate as inventory adjustment gets into full swing, Mieno argued that some indicators show the strength of the fundamentals.

The central banker cited strong capital spending—especially in the nonmanufacturing sector, in research and development, and in corporate streamlining—and firm consumer spending supported by the tight labor market.

Mieno reiterated there is little risk of the economy taking a sharp downturn but predicted the current adjustment phase will continue for a little while.

Mieno repeated his pet phrase that the economy is going through a period of transition, moving to balanced and sustainable growth with price stability after several years of overheated expansion in the late 1980s.

He stressed that the monetary policy is not designed to simply support the economy when it loses steam, but is intended primarily to achieve the medium-term objective of leading the economy to well-balanced growth.

Mieno said the economy will eventually take an upturn as the ongoing inventory adjustment comes to an end, but refused to say when that will be.

"We don't have enough materials yet to make a good assessment on when the adjustment will be over," he said.

Discussing the slowing money supply growth, Mieno said the level of money stock is still sufficient to support economic activities and there are no signs of reluctance on the part of financial institutions to lend.

"Corporate financing is far from tight, and I don't believe the slow money supply growth is putting a serious drag on the economy," he said.

The BOJ announced last week that the broad money supply—M2 plus certificates of deposit—grew at a historically slow annual pace of 1.8 percent in January.

Expectations of yet another cut in the benchmark lending rate are growing again in the markets due to proliferating signs that the economy is sinking into a recession.

Many private sector economists think the central bank will cut the key rate as early as March to boost the faltering economy.

A central bank official recently said the inventory adjustment will continue at least into the April-June quarter, but added it is too early to say whether it will be over in the following quarter.

Most private economists project the adjustment will end in the summer or fall, but some claim the economy will not show clear signs of an upturn before fiscal 1993, which begins April 1, 1993.

The growing pessimism about the Japanese economy has prompted louder calls from political and business circles for another cut in the official discount rate.

Some senior politicians of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are increasingly irked about what they call the government's and central bank's overly optimistic view of the economy.

Responding to surging anticipation of another interest rate cut, short-term interest rates have been falling in the money market.

Russell Jones, senior economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International Ltd., said economists are becoming a bit too pessimistic.

Jones predicted the inventory adjustment will be over by the end of June.

"I think we will see activity bottoming at the end of the second quarter (of calendar 1992), and a recovery beginning in the second half (of 1992)," he said.

But Jones nevertheless predicted the central bank would cut the discount rate within a month or so.

Large Retail Stores Sales Rise From Year Ago

OW2602071092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0605 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Sales at department stores and supermarkets in January rose a mere 1.4 percent from a year earlier to 1,815.3 billion yen, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday.

Sales at department stores rose 1.6 percent to 931 billion yen, while those at supermarkets edged up 1.3 percent to 884.2 billion yen.

In a monthly report, the ministry attributed the dull sales growth to unusually warm weather discouraging consumers from purchasing winter clothes and heating equipment.

Sales of food and beverages were firm but those of such high-priced commodities as jewelry, paintings, and other works of art remained sluggish, mirroring the still slowing Japanese economy, MITI said.

The January figures followed December's 1.0 percent increase from a year earlier, the slowest growth since February 1985, except for a period just after the nationwide consumption tax was introduced in April 1989.

Advisory Panel Urges New Administrative Capital

OW2602100792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—An advisory panel Wednesday called for setting up a new capital outside Tokyo exclusively engaging in political and administrative functions to cope with congestion in Tokyo and possible massive natural disaster.

The private advisory panel to National Land Agency Director General Yoshiyuki Toya made the proposal in an interim report submitted to the agency chief.

The report said building a new capital city outside Tokyo would cost 14 trillion yen.

The new capital, housing the Diet and major ministries and agencies, would be located more than 60 kilometers from Tokyo, cover an area of 9,000 hectares, and have a population of 600,000, it said.

But in an attempt to prevent speculators from buying up rural real estate, the report did not give any indication of where the new capital would be built or a timetable for its relocation.

According to the report, political and administrative organs, beginning with the Diet and followed by the major ministries and agencies, would be moved to the new capital. Economic organs would remain in Tokyo.

The relocation of the capital and dispersal of Tokyo's administrative, political, and economic functions have been influenced by congestion in Tokyo and perenniel concerns that an earthquake like the one that leveled Tokyo and Yokohama in 1923, or some other emergency, could cripple the nation again.

The report said it would be appropriate to move the Diet first and then the ministries and agencies in accordance with how smoothly they could transfer power.

Foreign embassies, international organs, and public organizations, as well as civilian transportation and communications groups, would also be moved in a step-by-step fashion.

The report estimated the new capital would be home for 300,000 officials, public servants, and their families as well as another 300,000 in the private service sector.

The area of the new capital would be three times larger than the town built up around Tsukuba University in Ibaraki Prefecture and construction costs, including 5 trillion yen to buy up the required land, would total some 14 trillion yen.

The report also recommended the development of small clusters of towns which could be easily accessed by high-speed rail transportation and expressways.

At the top of conditions listed for the location of the future capital is a locale where the danger of earthquakes and volcanic disasters are at a minimum.

The report also listed as conditions an area with a simple topography for construction, a reliable supply of water, unlikely to cripple the capital's activities with heavy snow, more than 60 kilometers outside Tokyo, and an area convenient for transportation and where real estate can be obtained easily.

The panel said in order to prevent land speculation it will be necessary to establisn land policies and at the same time candidate sites for the new capital should be publicly announced.

As for the future of Tokyo, the report suggested that it be promoted as a world center of finance, business, and culture.

Toyota To Promote Shorter Employee Work Week

OW2502133692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1224 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Nagoya, Feb. 25 KYODO—Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday it will allow more of its employees to enroll on a four-day weekly work schedule within this year.

The company said the decision is aimed at shortening average working hours for employees, who currently are on duty more than 2,000 hours a year.

When the four-day work week program is expanded, it will apply to 2,200 workers, up from the present 550, the company said.

The move will cut yearly work hours by 79 hours, it said.

Early last year, the company introduced the shortened-week option for employees at seven production facilities around its headquarters in Toyota city.

Scientists Cooperate on CO_2 Emissions Research

OW2602040192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0310 GMT 26 Feb 92

["News Focus" by Ian MacArthur]

[Text] Kurihama, Kanagawa pref. Feb. 26 KYODO—Scientists at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Kurihama power plant may be close to a system that would enable Japan to reduce its emission of the "greenhouse" gas carbon dioxide [CO_2] into the atmosphere, while actually burning more coal than at present. In adjoining laboratories inside the power station, 60 kilometers south of Tokyo at the southern entrance to Tokyo Bay, scientists from the two otherwise rival companies, Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and Hitachi, Ltd., are cooperating to perfect a process whereby CO_2 would be fed directly into the ocean.

Excess CO_2 in the atmosphere is said to contribute to the cocktail of gases enveloping the earth, causing the so-called greenhouse effect which many scientists argue is already raising average temperatures around the globe.

They say high concentrations in the atmosphere of CO_2 produced by burning fossil fuels act as an insulating layer which lets warmth from the sun in but blocks the passage of heat outward. The result could be a potentially catastrophic gradual raising of the temperature of the earth, based on the same principle by which the glass of a greenhouse traps beneficial heat.

But scientists say that by extracting CO_2 from the exhaust at the power plant, they may eventually be able to feed it into the ocean where it could lie inert indefinitely or even benefit marine plants such as seaweed which convert CO_2 into oxygen. The oceans serve as CO_2 "sinks," but under natural conditions the amount of CO_2 they can absorb is limited.

Inside the laboratories at Kurihama, white coated scientists are duplicating the conditions which prevail deep under the ocean in experiments which are expected to last until March 1995. Using a small television monitor, they are able to watch as purified CO_2 emitted from the plant is injected in liquefied form into artificial sea water at pressures up to 320 kilograms per cubic centimeter, duplicating those at depths of around 3,000 meters. Under these conditions, the injected CO_2 takes on the consistency of a jellied sherbet and precipitates to the bottom. But it is what happens after that which most concerns the scientists.

If the CO_2 were to settle permanently on the ocean bed, the scientists may have found a way to dispose of the gas indefinitely. But the real problem as far as the scientists at Kurihama are concerned is determining the propensity of the CO_2 pumped into the ocean to remain there. If the gas could be trapped permanently under the ocean, it would cease to be a greenhouse gas and this would allow a breathing space while other less problematic forms of energy are brought on line.

Similar experiments are underway at several other power plants around Japan, but the Kurihama one is the only one working with CO_2 derived from coal. Of all the fossil fuels, coal is the major culprit in contributing to global warming because it produces the most CO_2.

By conducting their experiment at the Kurihama power plant, which burns a viscous black tar-like coal-oil mixture, the researchers aim to show that coal, a cheaper source of heat than oil, still has a future. This has important implications for coal exporting countries like Australia which supplies 50 percent of the Kurihama plant's coal thanks to its purity and low cost. Coal's future as an energy source is under threat from a growing push among conservationists and governments to curb worldwide emissions of CO_2 and other greenhouse gases.

Japan and European nations have undertaken to limit CO_2 emissions, but the United States has so far shown a reluctance to introduce limits, particularly during a presidential election year.

The issue of CO_2 and other greenhouse gases is likely to be a major topic at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro in June. That conference—commonly known as the "Earth Summit"—may result in an international agreement calling for concrete steps by nations to cap global emissions of CO_2, but any such agreement can only be effective if major CO_2 emitting nations, like Japan, the U.S., China and the EC, conform.

In related experiments at another laboratory in Chofu, western Tokyo, scientists are searching for marine plants which would most efficiently use photosynthesis to absorb CO_2 pumped into oceans. Looking to an almost science fictional future, success in this experiment could even lead to more productive seaweed farming, although Tokyo Electric's public relations official Junji Imaizumi says there is no way even the most highly absorbent seaweeds could cope with the large amounts of CO_2 which giant power plants emit. Nor do the scientists yet know the ultimate effects of the CO_2 on the undersea environment.

Imaizumi said both sets of experiments are still in their early stages and no one at Tokyo Electric is even thinking about the seaweed farming connection although they are aware of the possible application.

Mongolia

Premier Byambasuren Leaves for France, Germany

OW2402185392 Beijing XINHUA in English 1348 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 24 (XINHUA)—Mongolian Premier Dashiyn Byambasuren left here today for France and Germany to seek further cooperation with them.

The premier will also pay a working visit to Belgium-based European Community headquarters.

Speaking to local reporters at the airport before his departure, Byambasuren said that his visit would contribute to further development of existing relations between his country and some European countries.

The visit would also open the door to further cooperation between Mongolia and the EC, the premier added.

This is the second visit to foreign countries made by senior Mongolian leaders this year.

Vice President Gonchigdorj, who is concurrently chairman of the Small Hural, left here early this month on a month-long tour of some Asian and Pacific countries.

It is believed that they are seeking more loans for national construction during their visits.

21st Congress of MPRP Opens in Ulaanbaatar

OW2602110092 Beijing XINHUA in English
1038 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 26 (XINHUA)—The 21st congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) opened here today.

Chairman of the MPRP Central Committee Budragchaagiyn Dash-Yondon who presided over the opening ceremony, gave a report entitled "Basic Issues on Relations Between Present Times and Party Policies."

The congress is expected to listen to a report presented by the Central Control Commission, discuss MPRP's program and Constitution, and elect new leading organs of the Central Committee.

Some 631 deputies attended the opening ceremony. The congress is scheduled to end on February 28.

Government Decides To Limit Fuel Consumption

OW2602032792 Beijing XINHUA in English
0318 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 25 (XINHUA)—The Mongolian Government has decided to cut the supply of electricity and oil from February 15 [as received] to April 1, local press reported today.

According to the decision adopted this month, national gasoline and diesel oil consumption will be strictly limited to 400-500 tons during this period, only half the normal consumption rate.

The electricity supply for industrial enterprises will be rationed and even television broadcasting time will be shortened by 4.5 hours each weekday.

In Ulaanbaatar, power will be cut off for six hours twice a week in each residential district.

Mongolia's gasoline supply is totally dependent on imports.

It had planned to import 300,000 tons of gasoline last year, but because of the shortage of foreign exchange, it imported only about 180,000 tons.

Local press revealed that the country's gasoline and diesel oil reserves were only sufficient for 25 and 20 days of consumption respectively.

North Korea

South Criticized for Briefing Japan on Proposal

SK2602051492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 26 Feb 92

["Despicable Pro-Japanese Flattery"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities sent the "minister" of their "embassy" in Tokyo on February 24 to the Japanese Foreign Ministry to "officially notify" it in the name of the "government" that they "turned down" the DPRK's suggestion that the North and the South of Korea jointly provide against Japan's attempts at nuclear arming, according to an NHK report.

This is, indeed, a despicable pro-Japanese act of flattery devoid of elementary national self-respect.

As is widely known to the world, Japan, which has hastened the development of nuclear weapons in every way, has not only purchased and stockpiled already a huge amount of plutonium but is pushing ahead with the construction of a large reprocessing plant which will produce plutonium enough to manufacture more than 1,000 nuclear weapons annually beside the enriching and reprocessing facilities now in operation. Voices expressing apprehensions over Japan's moves toward development of nuclear weapons are ringing out also from the Western world including the United States and from South Korea.

It was thus extremely justifiable in view of the objective reality that we proposed at the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks that the North and the South of Korea jointly counter Japan's attempts at nuclear arming.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities refused our proposal that proceeded from the desire to defend the vital interests of the nation and, to make matters worse, made quite a show of themselves by "officially informing" the Japanese authorities of it immediately the talks closed. [sentence as received]

This behavior of the South Korean authorities shows that they are clean indifferent to the interests of the nation and are unwilling to give up the way of living by fawning upon outside forces.

IAEA's Blix 'Encouraged' by Inspection Trend

SK2602074292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] According to a report from Washington on 18 February, Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], said that the IAEA will push ahead with the goal for all nations on Earth to observe the international and regional Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by 1995.

In an interview with THE WASHINGTON POST, he said he was encouraged [komurul patta] by the move for accepting nuclear inspection shown recently by North Korea. He stated that the overall trend is positive toward pushing for the goal for all nations to observe the international and regional Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

He stressed that pursuit of the internationalization [segyehwa] of nuclear nonproliferation by 1995 is a goal that possibly may be realized.

Man, Family Defect From South to North

SK2602104092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—Pak Han-sop, 29, who lived in Chombong-ri, Yoju-up, Yoju County, Kyonggi Province, South Korea came over to the northern half of the country with his wife Ho Kyong-ok, 28, and his daughter Pak Na-na.

His native place is Tongbinggo-dong, Yongsan district, Seoul.

He attended primary and high schools in his hometown and graduated from Inchon College in 1984 and then served in the puppet army for three years after his graduation.

He was the owner of the Kumgang car interior in Seoul before his defection.

Pak said he decided to come over to the northern half of the country because he was disillusioned with the South Korean society where it is a social trend that one tramples upon another for one's own interests.

He said:

From my childhood, misled by the anti-communist propaganda of the authorities, I thought that the North is a place unfit for human habitation.

But, in the course of social life, I heard a lot about the North and realized that the anti-communist propaganda of the authorities is a sheer lie and began to long for the socialism in the North.

I came over to the North at last with my family, convinced that the North where people live in good harmony is a society centered on the masses where a worthy and true life is possible.

U.S. Holds Ground, Air Exercises 24, 25 Feb

SK2602062192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force Command staged a large-scale aerial and ground joint strike exercise against the DPRK on February 24 with the South Korean airspace as the operational theatre, according to military sources.

It was participated in by nuclear-capable fighter-bombers from the Japan proper and the U.S. Pacific bases and some 200 fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes belonging to the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the South Korean puppet airforce.

That day the U.S. imperialists brought formations of large transport planes loaded with combat equipment from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific bases and deployed them in the U.S. Air Force bases in South Korea.

On the 25th, they sent U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes and army tactical reconnaissance planes to the air above the Military Demarcation Line area for an intensive electronic and photographing espionage on the depths and forward area of the northern half of Korea.

On the 24th, motorized infantry units and tank units of the puppet army, with the backing of the U.S. imperialists, took up an offensive position on the Uijongbu line and staged a frantic rehearsal against the North in coordination with some 20 warplanes belonging to the puppet airforce.

Owing to such war provocation moves which have been perpetrated behind the curtain of inter-Korean negotiations, the danger of a war is steadily growing on the Korean peninsula.

Cuban Military Delegation Ends Visit

Commander Extols 'Great Leaders'

SK2602033992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Rear Admiral Pedro M. Perez Betancourt, Central Committee member of the Cuban Communist Party, Revolutionary Armed Forces vice minister, and Navy commander, granted an interview to a reporter of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY in Pyongyang on 22 February.

He said it was an honor to visit Korea and to confer directly the medal of the Republic of Cuba on the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], who is upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, on the occasion of his 50th birthday. Saying that such good fortune will never be forgotten, he stressed:

It was a great honor and privilege for our delegation members to be received by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. We realized immediately upon being received by the great leader and the dear comrade leader that they are not only great leaders with perfect and tested leadership ability, but are great men who have warm feelings toward the Cuban people. It is indeed the Korean people's pride and honor to uphold these great leaders [yongdojadul].

He stressed that friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries have been strengthened and developed on the basis of the deep, intimate relationship between the esteemed Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people. He continued:

The visit to the DPRK in March 1986 by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz was of great significance in further strengthening and developing friendly and cooperative relations between the governments, peoples, and armies of the two countries. We, the Cuban people and soldiers of our Revolutionary Armed Forces, will never forget that Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song warmly met with each other, nor will we forget the Korean people's fraternal, warm hospitality this time. The friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples and armies of the two countries forever will remain constant.

He said that he wishes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, KPA supreme commander, long life and good health; for friendship and solidarity between the peoples and armies of Cuba and Korea; and for the eternal happiness of the Korean people.

He said: While staying in your country, I toured many areas of grandeur and prosperity, and I was deeply impressed.

He said: During our visit to Mangyongdae, we learned how the great leader President Kim Il-song spent his boyhood and how he cultivated his great will of patriotism. The great leader, who was born in a patriotic and revolutionary family which had fought for the country and the people generation after generation, embarked on the road of the revolution with the far-reaching will to regain the country by driving out the aggressors. Through our visit to Mangyongdae, we came to realize that the Korean people have an outstanding revolutionary tradition. Today, the world situation is very complicated. Your country, however, is arming and growing new generations with the ideology of patriotism. Through this, we can foresee a bright future for your country.

After touring the Soehae lockgate, he said he was very impressed: The Sohae lockgate is beyond our imagination. The Sohae lockgate, which protects cities from flood damage, is of great economic significance. Such a grand and splendid monumental edifice can be built only by the wise and diligent Korean people who are blessed with the wise leadership of the great party and leader.

After visiting Panmunjom, he said: I have received great encouragement from the appearance of the indomitable struggle of the militant, revolutionary, and heroic Korean people.

Saying that he witnessed the concrete barrier built by the U.S. imperialists to permanently split Korea, he stressed that the enemies' splittist maneuvers will be smashed without fail by the Korean people's strong will to reunify the country.

He stressed that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's proposal for national reunification will be realized without fail.

Delegation Departs 24 Feb

SK2602034192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The delegation of the party, state, and armed forces of the Republic of Cuba headed by Rear Admiral Pedro M. Perez Betancourt, Central Committee member of the Communist Party of Cuba, vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and commander of the Navy, left Pyongyang by plane on 24 February.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by (Kim Yong-mu), department director of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee; Kim Pong-yul, general of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; KPA Colonel General Kim In-chol; Song Ho-kyong, foreign affairs vice minister; Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to our country; and the Cuban Embassy military attache.

Foreign Minister Receives New Iranian Ambassador

SK2602112892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam today met and had a conversation with Hassan Taherian, newly-appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him.

Peace Requires South's 'Primary Attention'

SK2602061192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 26 Feb 92

["Primary Attention Must Be Paid to Peace"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed article entitled "Primary Attention Must Be Paid to Solution of Peace Problem."

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"The North and the South must also direct primary attention to the settlement of the question of peace and take practical measures for ensuring peace in the country."

The article goes on:

To pay primary attention to the settlement of the question of peace and take practical measures for peace is the urgent task the North and the South should fulfill to preserve peace in the country and promote national reunification.

The North and the South must pay primary attention to the question of peace because this is the gate which the North and the South must pass through in implementing the inter-Korean agreement and achieving reunification.

To insist on exchange alone in Korea where the military tensions between the North and the South are extremely acute is aimed, in fact, at opposing the reunification of the country, freezing the status quo of division and denying exchange itself.

Only when the North and the South pass through the gate of peace can they realise North-South reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange and reach the final destination of national reunification.

In order to preserve peace, the North and the South must stop arms race and realise disarmament.

It is our consistent position that the armed forces must not be reinforced but be cut to a level where neither side can invade the other.

Only when the North and the South stop arms race, realise disarmament and remove the internal source threatening peace is it possible to provide a most reliable guarantee for nonaggression, completely dispel the apprehensions for invasion from the South and "invasion" from the North and solve the reunification question on the basis of reconciliation and unity.

In order to preserve peace on the Korean peninsula, the issue of the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea must be solved. Now that the inter-Korean agreement has been adopted and effectuated, there is no need for foreign troops to be present in our country, nor is there any reason for foreign military bases to be kept there.

Now the South Korean authorities must make a decision to get the U.S. troops withdrawn and take measures to totally cancel joint military maneuvers with U.S. forces for good.

In order to preserve peace, the nuclear problem must be solved satisfactorily as set out in the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula."

As we have declared repeatedly, we do not have nuclear weapons, still less do we make them or need to do so.

The South Korean authorities must not resort to false propaganda about "nuclear development by the North" but show their sincerity in denuclearising the Korean peninsula by discharging their duty and responsibility stipulated in the joint declaration on denuclearisation.

When practical measures for ensuring peace are taken as taught by the great leader, the dark clouds of armed conflict and nuclear war will be driven away, eternal peace will settle down and good preconditions for peaceful reunification will be created on the Korean peninsula.

Local Elections Seen as Socialistic, Democratic

922C0082A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 19 Nov 91 p 2

[Article by An Chon-hun: "Democratic Election System As an Expression of the Genuine Superiority of Our Way of Socialism"]

[Text] As the city and county people's assembly elections draw closer, our people are deeply proud that they are enjoying every political freedom and right to their hearts' content under socialism, our way of socialism which is most superior and in which the masses of people are the nucleus.

The upcoming elections provide an important opportunity for our people to rightfully exercise their political ruling power as the true master of the state and society, to consolidate our local organs of power like bedrock, and to powerfully demonstrate the incomparable superiority of the nation's election system.

Generally speaking, an election of an organ of power constitutes a part of major importance in the people's political life while the type of election system they have is viewed as one of major criteria in measuring how progressive and superior their society is.

Elections held in our country under our way of socialism centered on the interests of the masses of people are important political work aimed at strengthening the unity and solidarity of the people further.

In capitalist society, where people are inimical to and keep a jealous eye on one another and where individualism is the base of social relations, elections are used by the exploiting class as a means to satisfy their greed for power. Elections in capitalist countries, held amid frauds committed in the face of the masses of people, are nothing more than a scramble for power within the exploiting class. The exploiting class uses elections as a lever to establish its political rule.

Elections in our country, unlike those in capitalist nations, are held to strengthen the unity and solidarity of the people further. Our citizens, united in one mind around the party and the leader, have shared interests in the elections held to consolidate the state ruling power that truly represents the independent rights of the masses of people.

In our country where the whole society is combined into one socio-political life, it is through elections that the position of the working people as the master of the political ruling power is further consolidated and their role as the master of government enhanced in every way.

Through the upcoming elections, too, our people will solidify the political base of the people's government which they established for themselves, further strengthening the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses.

The election system under our way of socialism, established under the sagacious leadership of the party and the leader with the masses of people in the center, is the most superior system based on democracy.

This is evident in the procedures and methods followed in our election system as well as in the principles it upholds.

In our country, elections of the organs of power are held on the principle of universal, equal, and direct suffrage as well as by secret ballot. They are free and fair elections. In other words, elections are held on the principle, and in the direction, that all citizens participate with an equal right and express their will freely in electing their representatives.

First of all, in our country, the workers and peasants and all other citizens have the right to take part in elections, the right to elect and to be elected, with no exception.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught:

"Our working people are actively participating in state government as the master of the nation. Irrespective of sex, occupation, property status and education, political views and religion, they have the right to elect and be elected with no exception."[1]

How many working people take part in an election is a major indicator of how democratic the election system is. Only when it ensures positive participation of the masses of working people can it be called a truly democratic system.

As stated in our Socialist Constitution, all citizens in our country aged 17 and above have the right to elect and be elected, irrespective of sex, race, occupation, length of residence, property status and education, party affiliation, political views and religion. Thus, in our country, workers and peasants, who had in the past been subjected to all sorts of mistreatment and humiliation, and women who account for half the population are taking part in the elections of deputies to the organs of power at all levels in their own right. At the same time, they are, as elected deputies of the organs of power, actively participating in state affairs.

In contrast, capitalist countries have various legal restrictions, including residence and property status clauses raised to keep the broad masses of working people from participating in elections. The South Korean puppet clique deprives people of the right to "vote" as well as the right to "be elected" by setting the "voting" age unreasonably high. Besides, through a variety of restrictive clauses, including the "deposit money," it deprives the broad working masses, pro-democracy activists, and revolutionaries of their right to be elected. This indisputably proves that the "election" system in the South Korean society is a reactionary system designed to exclude the broad masses of people from elections. The anti-democratic nature of the South Korean "election" system is clearly seen in the fact that of the 299 persons elected in the 13th puppet National Assembly "elections," more than a half are comprador capitalists, reactionary bureaucrats, and politicos. Not a single true representative of workers and peasants is included.

The democratic nature of the election system in our county also lies in the fact that the elections in our country fully reflect the free will of the entire masses of people.

In our country, to ensure that all citizens effectively exercise their right to vote, election procedures and methods are defined and implemented on the principle of guaranteeing them maximum convenience and fairness.

According to the election regulations, district and sub-district election committees are organized and pollbooks are compiled and made public in advance. Election sub-districts are organized on a regional basis in proportion to the number of eligible voters. Furthermore, to ensure that people are not prevented from fully exercising their right to vote for geographic or any other reasons and that all take part in the elections with no exception, separate election sub-districts are created in remote places, hospitals, sanatoria, and major railway stations. All the necessary conditions are met to guarantee the principle of direct and secret ballot, so that every citizen can express his or her will freely in the elections.

In capitalist countries and South Korea, "elections" are held under pressures of illegal money politics and government power and by fraudulent means amid all types of fascist repression and terror. Today, "elections" in capitalist countries literally became a race in money politics and government power. Thus, whoever has money and power can become a member of the National Assembly through election controlled by fraud and deception of every type. In South Korea, all kinds of fraud and deception, money-mad politics and acts of fascist repression are on the rise daily. In the 13th South Korean puppet National Assembly "elections" and this year's "large-city and provincial assembly elections" alone, the No Tae-u clique, while ostensibly giving lip service to "fair elections" and "clean elections," mobilized every available money-power and bureaucratic resources to get its candidates elected. According to disclosures by South Korean publications, in the puppet National Assembly "elections," "Democratic Liberal

Party" candidates spent an average of 2 billion won, and some up to 7 billion won. During the "election" campaign period, they also used forces of repression to barbarously suppress patriotic, democratic forces and perpetrated all types of cowardly maneuvers to ensure that the "elections" wind up the way they want them to.

Through the fundamental difference between the most democratic election system in our country and the reactionary election systems in capitalist countries, our people are convinced that the socialist society is the only truly democratic society that guarantees the masses of people their essential political freedom and rights.

The democratic nature of our election system is based on the intrinsic characteristics and superiority of our way of socialism embodying the great chuche ideology.

Our socialism—built on the base of the great chuche ideology in which people are the nucleus—is for a society centering on the interests of the masses of people in which the masses of people are the master of everything and everything serves the masses of people. In this superior society, our people, with no exception, are exercising their political freedom and rights to their heart's content in every way as the true master of state power and the means of production. They participate in political life freely, and they participate in the elections of power organs in their own right, giving full play to democracy.

It altogether is the result of the sagacious leadership of the party and the leader that the popular election system—a superior social system guaranteeing the masses of people the genuine democracy—was established in our country. Today, our people, cherishing deep in their hearts the infinite happiness and pride that they are enjoying all the political freedom and rights under the most superior socialism established by the sagacious leadership of the party and the leader, are firmly resolved to continue to resolutely protect and defend and add luster to our people's government and socialist system.

Footnotes

1. See *Collection of Kim Il-song Works*, vol. 32, p 32.

KCNA Reviews 26 Feb Pyongyang Press

SK2602054392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received Rolando Brena Pantoja, National Executive Committee president of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru.

Dailies print a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song to Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party, on the latter's 70th birthday.

Appearing in papers are a message of thanks to President Kim Il-song from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and news that a message of greetings came to him from the participants in the inaugural meeting of the Rwandan committee for the study of the chuche idea.

Papers inform the readers that the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru presented a gift to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, on his 50th birthday and his birthday was gradly celebrated in various countries.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article about the exploits of Comrade Kim Chong-il written by the president of Ancash National University of Peru.

Papers report that Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish" was published in booklet in Romania, the brief history of the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Chong-il was brought out in booklet by the J. B. Publishing House of Denmark and the brief history was reported by foreign media.

Carried in papers is a message of greetings to the 21st Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party from the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The chairman of the State Agricultural Commission who had visited Guinea as a special envoy of President Kim Il-song came back home, according to papers.

The economic news columns of the press include reports that more than 10 million tons of coal production capacity has been newly created at coal mines.

Conveyed in the press are accounts of the national seminar on the chuche idea and education held in Nigeria, the report made at the seminar and the formation of the Nigerian national committee for the study of the chuche idea.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article entitled "Socialism Is Idea Suited to Nature of Social Being".

Papers report that the 15th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union was held in Pyongyang.

Papers report that the Nepalese king and the chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxism-Leninism) separately met with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In order to promote national reunification, a NODONG SINMUN article says, primary attention must be paid to the settlement of the question of peace and, a MINJU CHOSON article says, the independent stand must be maintained strictly.

The Coalition for Democracy and National Reunification in South Korea held an all-people rally to judge the "Democratic Liberal Party" and achieve the vital rights of the people, according to papers.

Papers denounce the South Korean authorities for having recently fabricated a "case of the Chirisan death squad, the vanguard combat organisation of Chondaehyop" and penalised students and report that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities staged war exercises against the North.

Papers carry an article by Yi Chol, a democratic "National Assemblyman," on Kim Yong-sam who is obsessed with "greed for presidency" which was published in the South Korean magazine MAL No. 2.

Seen in papers are a joint statement on peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula issued by 15 members of parliament of Portugal and a report that foreign papers carried articles supporting the inter-Korean agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearisation.

It is reported in papers that Comrade Fidel Castro visited the rural area of Havana Province and Cuba rejected the so-called "special delegate" for supervision of human rights in Cuba at the regular meeting of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva.

Papers inform the readers that the Chinese delegate rejected the U.S. criticism concerning human rights at a meeting of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected the groundless slander of Western countries concerning "human rights problem", the general director of the International Atomic Energy Agency vowed to realise nuclear non-proliferation worldwide by 1995 and the U.S. Defense Department worked out a war scenario against Russia.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article on the despicable and vicious political terrorism of the United States.

South Korea

North Diplomat on Opening Nuclear Facilities

SK2602012792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0106 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Vienna, Feb. 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea expects to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection by June, after ratifying the nuclear safeguards accord in April, a North Korean diplomat told a press conference Tuesday.

The Supreme People's Assembly would convene in early April and ratify the safeguards pact, roving Ambassador O Chang-nim said, and it would not require the signature of North Korean President Kim Il-song.

The much-suspected Yongbyon facilities were just part of a research center for atomic power development, he said, denying that they are weapons-grade plutonium reprocessing installations.

The ambassador gave the first specific time for North Korea to accept inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Pyongyang signed an IAEA safeguards accord Jan. 30 but refused to say when it would ratify the accord or allow inspection .

Chances were "very slight" that the Supreme People's Assembly would reject ratification of the safeguards accord, he said.

O's press conference came in the middle of a four-day IAEA Board of Governors meeting that opened here Monday.

Thirty of the 35 board members sent a strong-toned message in speeches Monday and Tuesday demanding North Korea's unconditional ratification of the safeguards pact. The message came with the warning that failure to do so would result in a request for the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions.

If the accord were ratified, North Korea would submit a report on its nuclear materials and facilities by the end of May, making inspection possible in June, the ambassador said.

"Yongbyon is but a small valley in a mountain," he said when asked about reports that it is home to more than 100 nuclear-related constructions.

"How can it contain so many facilities?" O said. "Yongbyon is where North Korea's atomic power research development research center is, and therefore has all the installations necessary for such research."

The roving ambassador refused to comment on South-North Korean mutual nuclear inspection, saying it is unrelated to the IAEA and must be solved between the two countries.

IAEA Board members, meanwhile, came closer to an agreement on giving the agency the right to conduct "special inspections." The IAEA will be able to enforce inspection of nuclear facilities that are not included in a member country's report under the special inspection rights.

It will be able to use information gathered from a third channel such as satellite photographs in demanding special inspection on a country.

The board meeting continues Wednesday to discuss mandating prior submission of construction blueprints for nuclear facilities and restrictions on trade of nuclear materials.

ROK Official Doubts Statement

SK2602073092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0616 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—A high-ranking government official said Wednesday that he believed a statement by North Korea on its nuclear development was designed to avoid international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

The official was commenting on press reports that quoted North Korean roving Ambassador O Chang-yim as saying in Vienna that his country would ratify the nuclear safeguards agreement it signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by April and allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities by June.

The official, who declined to be identified by name, said the statement hardly rang true and was probably O's personal opinion rather than Pyongyang's official stand.

The South Korean Government had, therefore, decided to wait until Thursday, when South and North Korea convene a meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom to discuss the nuclear issue.

"We will work out countermeasures after sounding out North Korea's true intention at the meeting," he said.

South Korea would do its utmost for international inspection and mutual inspection of nuclear installations in each other's country by June, he said, adding that Seoul's judgment is that North Korea will have completed its nuclear reprocessing facilities by that month.

IAEA Board Adopts Resolution

SK2602091692 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 26 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] On 25 February, North Korea revealed that it will ratify the nuclear safeguards accord in April and accept nuclear inspection in June. The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], the United States, and other countries called for a special inspection in addition to the general inspection, and even for a forcible inspection if necessary, however. Thus, a tense atmosphere persists over North Korea's nuclear issue.

A resolution to operate a system of special inspections on unreported facilities and on portions arousing suspicion in the general inspection was adopted at the 25 February IAEA Board of Governors meeting. In particular, in that meeting, representatives of the five standing committee member countries of the UN Security Council, including China, even raised the issue of conducting a forcible inspection, using sanctions as steps against North Korea, by forwarding a bill on this to the UN Security Council in the event that North Korea delays acceptance of inspection.

The IAEA has two categories of inspection: general inspections and special inspections. When these methods are not found effective, forcible inspection may be conducted through a UN Security Council resolution.

In a hearing at the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Robert Gates, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, testified that in addition to the general inspection, a forcible inspection and an inspection based on the agreement between North and South Korea are necessary for North Korea's nuclear facilities.

Such hard-line international moves for nuclear inspection in North Korea seem to have been prompted by suspicions that North Korea may develop nuclear weapons by buying time and may hide them. Thus, the people's attention will be focused on how North Korea will respond to such moves.

DPRK Bolsters Defense Around Nuclear Facility

SK2602123692 Seoul YONHAP in English 1226 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—North Korea is building up the defense of its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, increasing anti-aircraft emplacements from five to more than 40, a high-ranking officer of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Wednesday.

The officer said the increase had been confirmed through the U.S. intelligence network.

He said North Korea was also found to have been building an underground tunnel near Yongbyon "apparently in preparation for air attacks on its nuclear facilities."

Meanwhile, the government has decided to name Lt. Gen. Song Ung-sop, a vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as South Korean head of the inter-Korean Joint Military Committee and appoint three other military officers and three civilians as members of the Committee.

The two Koreas plan to hold the first meeting of the Joint Military Committee on March 13.

North Korea wants the committee to be formed by seven military officers each from both sides, but the South opts for a mixed presence of officers and civilians, such as officials of the National Unification Board and the Foreign Ministry.

As for the annual South Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting, the officer said, it was likely to be held in September.

Reporter on DPRK Economy After Pyongyang Visit

SK2502033692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Feb 92 p 5

[Article by Kim Sung-pok, who returned to Seoul 21 February after a four-day stay in Pyongyang to cover the North-South high level talks: "North Korea's Morbid Economy Ubiquitous"]

[Text] During the three-and-a-half hours of my train ride from Kaesong to Pyongyang, I did not see a single train with cargos on board either passing or waiting at side tracks of railroad stations.

On the way back from Pyongyang to Kaesong, I saw only one at a station but with no freight.

The highway linking Pyongyang with Kaesong, an ancient capital city just north of the truce village of Panmunjom, was still under construction. I was told the highway project started in December, 1987.

Throughout the 198 km between the two cities, high smokestacks were in sight but few were giving off smoke, evidence that the factory was in operation.

Along the railway, villages of shabby houses appeared like small islands on deserted paddy fields against the bleak landscapes with naked hills.

I could seldom see people on the fields. The train was moving at a slow speed and I could see an old woman and a middle-aged man peep out of the windows of their farmhouse.

Near Kaesong, I saw workers building a two-story house. They were lifting up a prefabricated concrete slabs with a crane which looked antiquated. The corners of the concrete slabs were broken off and its face looked dirty. Red bricks with cement mortar on their sides were also being used in the work. I was certain that the materials were recycled from old buildings.

In Pyongyang, the traffic was very scanty. Very few cargo trucks were seen. The pedestrians in the streets seemed "indifferent" to the visitor from the South.

At night, the streets of Pyongyang were dim but the many neon-lit slogans were blinking atop buildings.

The symptoms of morbid economy of North Korea is ubiquitous. In general, the economy in Pyongyang was at a standstill to the eyes of the visitor who is accustomed to the hustle and bustle of the capitalist metropolis.

It was very embarrassing to find the tremendous gap between what I saw while travelling to the guest house and what they showed me during the following three days, however.

The Grand People's Study House, the Pyongyang Circus House and the People's Culture Palace are all monumental buildings which the "Great Leader" has built for the people. The Gate of Triumph and the Chuche (self-reliance) Tower are structures which have no parallel in size and architecture in the world, my North Korean guide said boastfully.

In the Kwangbok (liberation) Street, many high-rise apartments lined up to form a Western-style skyline. At the central part of Pyongyang, the skeleton of 105-story building, the Yukyong Hotel, is soaring toward the sky, awaiting for the final touches.

On the day of arrival in Pyongyang, the southern delegates were invited to a dinner hosted by North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk at the Mongnangwan (Peony House).

The buses carrying the 50 newsmen and conference support personnel travelled through the downtown and entered into a side street and drove through an opening between a high concrete wall where an armed soldier stood sentry. The buses proceeded like a snake to pass through another opening in the second concrete wall to arrive at Mongnangwan.

Inside the building, all members of our party were surprised with the "lavishness." It was a spacious hexagonal floor with all sides adorned with marbles. Chandeliers were dangling from the hexagonal ceiling, dazzling the eyes of the people below.

At the back side of the floor, a large stage was hidden behind a huge, cinema screen-sized landscape painting. As song and dance performances started after the dinner, a half-circle stage rose from below and two marble walls, right and left, opened to shed spot-lights on the stage.

I asked my guide, "Are the ordinary people allowed to come in here?" "This house is for big parties," was the reply.

The Pyongyang Circus House was also gorgeous. It was like an "indoor" bullfighting arena. At the center below, there was a large circular stage. As it slid away, there appeared an "ice stage" for ice-skating dancers.

At the Paekhwawon guest House, food was served in great variety. For example, the lunch on the first day consisted of 16 different dishes. The menus at Chongnyugwan and Ongnyugwan Restaurants we visited later were even more fanciful, made up of rare, delicious foods.

At Chongnyugwan alone, the North Korean guides were allowed to share the table with their "guests" from Seoul. It was the first and last chance for me to have a meal with may guide.

On the second day, I asked my guide, "How much rice are you rationed a month?" He replied, "Six hundred grams per day for male adult and 300 for a child."

"It is enough for your family?" I asked again. "Yes, it is sufficient."

When I went up to my room at the guest house where Seoul newspapers were waiting for me. In one of them a New York-datelined article drew my attention.

A NEW YORK TIMES correspondent dispatched to Yanbian near the North Korean-Manchurian border was reporting about a North Korean campaign to have two meals a day. It said the Pyongyang TV recently reported the case of a man who died early because he ate too much.

Koreas To Support Nampo Project as 'Model Case'

SK2302021392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Feb 92 p 8

[Text] "In particular, the North Korean side said it has already launched land consolidation on a total of 990,000 square meters for the jointly projected industrial complex."

Kim Chong-wu, vice minister for North Korean Foreign Economic Affairs, also conveyed Pyongyang's intention to expand social infrastructure including a container terminal in Nampo Port and roads connecting the complex and the port, Han told reporters yesterday.

For the joint project, Kim made it clear that Pyongyang would revise the foreign joint venture law or the Administration Council would guarantee the project officially, he said.

Han said he also conveyed Seoul's intention to actively support the project as a model case, adding that Daewoo will be able to dispatch a working-level inspection team to the North this week.

Touching on South-North economic cooperation, Han said, "Full-scale economic cooperation will hardly be realized without solution of nuclear issues including joint nuclear inspections."

South and North Korea agreed to form a joint nuclear control council in one month to solve nuclear issues at the premiers' talks in Pyongyang last week.

A working-level team from the Daewoo Group is likely to be sent to North Korea this week to conduct an on-site inspection in connection of an industrial complex in Nampo.

This is a follow-up to the agreement reached by Daewoo Group chairman Kim Wu-chung and the North Korean authorities in Pyongyang during his visit in January.

Vice Economic Planning Minister Han Kap-su, who returned to Seoul from a four-day visit to North Korean capital as a member of the premiers' talks, said that South and North Korean sides fundamentally agreed to actively support the joint Nampo project as a model case.

Han said, "I and my North Korean counterpart Kim Chong-wu broadly agreed to support the Daewoo project as a separate project from formal South-North Korean economic cooperation in view of the fact the project had been sought before effectuation of the South-North agreement."

Han also said, "The North Korean side was deeply interested in the Nampo project and expressed its hope that the project be carried out as agreed by Daewoo Group chairman and North Korean Premier Kim Tal-hyon."

North To Participate in Seoul World Travel Fair

SK2302042492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 22 (YONHAP)—North Korea has agreed to take part in the 7th Korean World Travel Fair ('92 Kotfa) in Seoul in May, government and Kotfa sources said Saturday

The North's state general tourist guidance bureau has informed the Kotfa steering committee of its acceptance of Kotfa's invitation to take part in the fair.

If it attends, it will be the first North Korean participation in a fair in the South. '92 Kotfa is slated for May 14-17 at the Korea Exhibition Center (Koex) in southeastern Seoul.

North Korea notified the Kotfa committee that more than five tourist concerns would take part in the fair, which would include the North Korean Civil Aviation Co., North Korean International Tourist Bureau and a tourist hotel.

Kotfa will pay all the expenses of the North Koreans, who will number about 10, the sources said, adding that the Kotfa steering committee and National Unification Board were discussing matters related to the North Korean participation.

Last year, Kotfa invited the North to the sixth Kotfa Fair, but the North declined at the last minute. Lately, however, North Korea has begun to take part in international travel fairs in an apparent bid to develop their tourism to earn badly needed foreign exchange.

North Korea, which joined the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in 1987, took part in the International Tourism Exchanges-Berlin (ITB) last year and intends to participate in the 26th ITB March 7-12.

Pyongyang told the East Asian Travel Association (EATA) Feb. 20 that it would join the regional organization shortly. The North had refused to join on the ground that South Korea is a member.

Japan To Build Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Facility

SK2602063992 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 25 Feb 92 p13

[Article by correspondent Kim Ui-tae from Aomori Prefecture, Japan]

[Text] Amid international controversy over Japan's plan to import large quantities of plutonium, Japan is moving to become one of the powerful nuclear countries by actively pushing ahead with construction of a large-scale nuclear fuel reprocessing facility. Thus, such a move by Japan is causing the world deep apprehension.

According to the plan revealed by Japan, it is going to invest a total of 840 billion yen [equivalent to $6.51 billion] to build a used-nuclear fuel depot capable of storing 8,000 tons by 1995 and a reprocessing plant capable of reprocessing 800 tons annually by 1999 at a 932.95-acre site in (Iyasakatai District), (Rokashomura), Aomori Prefecture.

Regarding this plan, Sato Niochi, deputy chief of the nuclear fuel public information center in Rokashomura, said that the Japanese Government will apply for a construction permit sometime this year after inspection by the safety inspection committee.

Sato added that the plan is part of a long-range Japanese plan for self-sufficiency in nuclear fuel used by Japanese nuclear power plants.

In addition, Japan is planning to invest some 180 billion yen [equivalent to $1.4 billion] to complete construction of a uranium enrichment plant with a capacity of 150 metric tons per year during this year. Through extension every year, Japan plans to ultimately expand the plant to enrichment capacity of 1,500 metric tons per year, achieving self-sufficiency in nuclear fuel from early 21st century on.

In (Tokaimura), (Ibaraki Prefecture), pilot nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities were installed already in 1977 and have reprocessed some 300 metric tons of used-nuclear fuel up to the present, extracting plutonium that can be used as fuel for nuclear power plants. Japan failed to put it into industrialization use due to lack of commercial viability, however.

Currently, the United Kingdom and France have reprocessing plants capable of reprocessing 1,500 metric tons per year and 2,200 metric tons per year, respectively.

To effectively use nuclear fuel, in particular, Japan has developed a thermal reactor which uses, as raw material, plutonium blended with Uranium 235 and a fast breeder reactor which can use only plutonium as raw material. These two reactors are now under performance test.

Up to the present, Japan has imported the enriched uranium [semifinished material] in whole quantity. From next year on, Japan will import inexpensive uranium ore and operate the first phase of enrichment facilities which can extract pure uranium by centrifugal separation method.

As Japan is a resource-poor nation and atomic energy is an important energy source for it, Japan is investing heavily in nuclear-related fields.

As of the end of January, a total of 41 nuclear reactors are in full operation. As a result, the ratio of total power generated by the nuclear power plants amounts to 27 percent. Another 12 nuclear reactors are now under construction. Two additional reactors are under planning stage.

Japan will up the ratio of power generated by nuclear reactors to 35 percent in 1995 and 40 percent in 2000, respectively.

The construction of the low-level radwaste disposal plant, which is being built with a project cost of 160 billion yen [equivalent to $1.3 billion] at the 885-acre site in (Oisitai District), Rokakshomura, is progressing as planned and will be put into commission around December this year.

Sato said that this coming April an exclusive radwaste carrier will carry eight drums of radwaste and will put in port inside the disposal site. He continued to say that in the port, a simulated unloading will take place.

The first phase of facilities, which will be completed some time this year, will have the capacity to store 1 million 200-liter drums and will be expanded to hold 3 million in the future.

The radwaste disposal method consists of shallow land disposal including French (Reman) and the U.S. Barnwell. This method requires that we dig 12-meter-deep caves, make several 6-meter-high ferro concrete rooms, pile radwaste drums, and cover the drums with Bentonite in two meter thickness and with ordinary earth on top of Bentonite in four additional meters thickness.

The residents at the disposal site understand the construction of the low-level radwaste disposal site, but some feel uneasy about the possible construction of the high-level radwaste disposal site. The Japanese Government has not yet made a decision on the construction of the high-level radwaste disposal site.

Reports Mark No Tae-u's Fourth Year in Office

No Makes Statement

SK2602021292 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Feb 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kang Song-chol]

[Text] President No Tae-u tried to ease public concern about the nation's bad economic conditions as he entered his last year in office yesterday.

Despite the growing foreign trade deficit and rising prices, he asserted that the nation's economy will be put on the right track soon.

"Many people are talking about our economic difficulties, but I am confident that we will be able to pull out of them," No said during a ceremony at Chongwadae marking the fourth anniversary of his inauguration.

He indicated that he would pay as much attention to the domestic economy as to foreign policy.

No's emphasis on the economy came amid rising calls for steps to revive the slumping economy.

A recent survey sponsored by the Information Ministry showed that 56 percent of the pollees said the president should concentrate on economic recovery during his remaining 12 months in office.

The country registered a current account deficit of a record $8.8 billion last year and posted a 10 percent rise in inflation, according to official figures.

The poor economic performance makes a good target for the opposition in this election year.

The main opposition Democratic Party yesterday accused No's government of bringing about a "total crisis" in society, particularly arguing that public lives have become "bankrupt."

The party charged that the administration has been hit by a string of corruption scandals.

No, concurrently head of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, countered by accusing his critics of blowing certain economic failures out of proportion.

"We should try to see the forest, rather than individual trees," he said at the Chongwadae ceremony, held with the attendance of about 180 ranking officials at the presidential office and the Chongwadae press corps.

He defended his economic policy, asserting that many of the present economic difficulties should be attributed to "structural changes" now underway in the national economy.

The president appeared most confident when talking about "his northern policy" aimed at improving relations with communist or socialist countries. "No one would deny the achievement made under the policy," he said.

He said he thinks that about 80 percent of his government's goals have so far been achieved.

"I hope to achieve 15 percent of the remaining 20 percent during my term. And the remaining 5 percent should be referred to my successor," he said.

After reminiscing about the past four years in office, No said he felt as if he were starting anew.

"I turn 60 this year, but I am still full of vigor," he said. "I want to have a good finale as our Olympic delegation did in Albertville."

Police Warn of Student Attacks

SK2602022692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Seoul Police Administration yesterday order its subordinate police stations to stay vigilant against any attacks on major government facilities by radical students on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the inauguration of the Sixth Republic led by President No Tae-u.

In its directives to the police stations, Seoul police said radical students' attacks on government facilities or headquarters and local offices of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party are expected during the night or early in the morning.

* No's Political Conflict With Chon Tu-hwan Noted

922C0087A Seoul WOLGAN OBSERVER in Korean Oct 91 pp 101-117

[Article by reporter Kwak Pyong-chan: "Chon Tu-hwan's Big Offensive: President No's Hidden Past"]

[Text] President No has his work cut out for him. From the time he was an Army major general until the present there have been many vicissitudes, and there are difficult, knotty problems he has to unravel during his remaining time in office. The closer he gets to the end of his term, however, these knotty problems—far from getting unraveled—seem to be getting more snarled up and are making President No's behavior awkward and cramped.

It would be fortunate if these questions were tied only to the recent economic crisis and other matters of state administration, because they could be ascribed to competency or incompetency. Unfortunately, however, the problems he has to solve are directly linked to the evaluation of his own moral and political stature. It is all the more worrisome because they are also intimately connected with the problem of his security after he steps down.

It is a problem relating to Chon Tu-hwan and the Fifth Republic. Far from being unravelled, the knotty problems related to the Fifth Republic and Chon, his predecessor, who knows everything about the moral and political secrets of President No, are becoming even more twisted. Things are such that Chon's side is now sharpening its knives and pointing them at No.

People are even making the unhappy appraisal that President No, who has followed Chon, almost fatefully, from his Army days up to the presidency, might even end up like Chon "after leaving office."

The relationship between President No and Chon as a subject of conversation is nothing new. No matter how embittered the Chon side got, however, President No was able to either ignore or cover up these things with the aegis of state power. But, as the end of No's term nears and the leakage of his power accelerates, the situation is suddenly changing. To President No, Chon holds a powerful explosive force equal to that of a nuclear bomb—and he is clearly breaking away from his restrictions.

Of course, if the two men reconcile their differences, that is the end of it. If the situation returns to the old "Chon-No relationship," there will not be any problem. Unfortunately, however, when we look at what has transpired and at the present situation, the possibility of reconciliation seems to be completely nil. Particularly, with the merger of the three parties, President No, is now "in bed with Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam," and even if he wanted to reconcile with Chon, he is in the tough predicament of being hemmed in by Chairman Kim and unable to budge.

On Your Knees and Beg, President No

Chon is demanding that President No—as the party involved in condemning the Fifth Republic—must go personally before the nation and restore the honor of the Fifth Republic. In other words, inasmuch as it was President No, the No. 2 man of the Fifth Republic and Chon's successor, who rejected and denounced the Fifth Republic, President No himself should solve the problems in order to restore the relationship. From the formal standpoint of an incumbent president and a former president, the recovery of the Fifth Republic's honor would take the form of a direct appeal to the people in a statement to the nation. From the personal standpoint of old comrades or friends, President No would have to meet Chon personally and clear up the "misunderstandings" about the past—not just send ineffectual figures to meet Chon.

This would be tantamount to "robbing President No of his dignity as president by making him get down on his knees and beg." Even if President No should consider submitting to this kind of humiliation, he is fundamentally constrained by the "bedfellow situation" with Executive Chairman Kim—who took the lead and exercised great clout in having Chon exiled to Paektam Temple.

A No-Chon reconciliation and a No-Kim separation are two sides of the same coin. Indeed, from a common sense point of view, it is impossible to have a person who has been purged, the person who purged him, and the middleman in the purge all living beneath the same roof. The most striking part of President No's actions since the launching of the Sixth Republic was his deserting the Fifth Republic and Chon, who made him president, and joining up with Chairman Kim, who played the leading role in repudiating the Fifth Republic.

Even as recently as last July, a No-Chon reconciliation itself did not appear to be impossible. Both sides had a faint expectation that a restoration of relations was possible. As the word was already being spread among the public in a very caricatured fashion, President No, the power-holder, had stooped to begging Chon for a reconciliation and Chon, who had been booted out and branded as a criminal of history, had shrugged off the president's entreaties. Back-and-forth negotiations were taking place between them involving "reconciliation preconditions," however.

After the change last April in the political status of Pak Chol-on, the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, President No rushed ahead with a restoration of relations with the Yonhui-dong group. He appointed as senior secretary for government administration An Kyo-tok, who at one time had maintained a close relationship with No and Chon as a member of Class 11 of the Korean Military Academy (KMA), and put An in charge of managing matters relating to his family and in-laws and the former president. In the cabinet reshuffle carried out in the wake of the beating death of Kang Kyong-tae, No appointed An Pil-chun, former head of the Defense Security Command, to be minister of health and social welfare, a position completely unrelated to his career track.

After the regional elections, President No's efforts toward reconciliation were carried out more directly and more concretely. He sent Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, former prime ministers No Sin-yong and Kim Chong-yol, Executive Director of the Chogye Buddhist Order So Ui-hyon, Reverend Kim Chang-hwan, and Chairman Kim Chong-nae of the Songbuk district chapter of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) to see Chon and to ask for a reconciliation. In addition, on 25 June, on the heels of the stunning DLP victory in the city and provincial council elections, he released Chon Kyong-hwan [Chon's brother] on parole.

Of these acts, Prime Minister Chong's visit to Chon was an important episode that clearly illustrates President No's will and Chon's indignation. When Prime Minister Chong broached the issue and said, "Should the rift between the fifth and sixth republics not be patched up?" Chon immediately replied, "That problem has nothing to do with you, Prime Minister Chong, so do not involve yourself," and refused to discuss it further.

Nonetheless, Prime Minister Chong stubbornly tried three times to bring up the matter of "reconciliation." And when Yi Yon-taek, the minister of government administration, who accompanied Prime Minister Chong, said, "President No himself never signaled any intention to sever the relationship between the fifth and sixth republics, did he?" Chon flew into a rage. "If that was the president's will, how could the people under him run around clamoring for the severing of the fifth and sixth republics?" Chon retorted.

When other persons such as No Sin-yong and Kim Chong-yol visited him to mediate a reconciliation, Chon also rebuffed them to their face and sent them all packing without exception. Chon had a vague hope of a change in President No's attitude, however, because through these people Chon had made clear his stand that "the person who tied the knot has to untie it," and set forth the condition that the job must be achieved simultaneously on both the individual and the official level.

Countdown to a Chon "Lawsuit" Against Sixth Republic

Now, however, the No-Chon relationship is taking a rapid turn from a "seesaw battle" to a collision course. On 9 August, former National Security Planning Agency (NSP) director Chang Se-tong, who had acted as Chon's chief of staff, in fact formally affirmed the drive for political power of former Fifth Republic figures, and Chongwadae [the presidential mansion] is scrambling to prevent them from gaining political influence.

Chongwadae wanted to send out invitations for the completion ceremonies of the Chongwadae main building on 3 September, but Chon's side stoutly refused, saying, "We are not going to attend, so do not even send us invitations." Chongwadae vented its displeasure over this, telling reporters, "We cannot take any more of this. They have really gone too far."

Chon's side was tired of the Chongwadae attitude of begging for "unconditional reconciliation" without even fulfilling any of Chon's demands and conditions. Chongwadae says, "They are just too set on getting revenge and do not even stop to think that it was because of President No that the drive to 'liquidate the legacy of the Fifth Republic' stopped where it did."

Because of that, Chon is preparing to formally institute "a lawsuit." If President No does not acknowledge his own mistakes or errors, Chon will use "litigation" to prove his case. In addition, they say they will recover the defamed honor of the Fifth Republic.

If this "lawsuit" should materialize, Chon, as the plaintiff who claims to be the injured party, and President No, who pleads innocence, will have to appear in "court." Of course, by court is meant the "court of politics," such as the 14th general elections or political declarations. A fight between political forces will take place in the court of politics in the form of political exposes and political battles, with the people as the jurors.

Consequently, Chon's side is targeting the 14th general elections and constantly seeking to enhance the political clout of the Fifth Republic, while Chongwadae is trying to frustrate this. A symbolic expression of this is the fact that as soon as former director Chang signalled his intention to seek a Fifth Republic political comeback, Chongwadae completely scrapped the multi-seat electoral system that the government and ruling party mainstream had been strongly endorsing. This was because the multi-seat electoral system would have provided a firm base for launching a new political party centering about Fifth Republic figures.

Of course, the principal of the lawsuit must be Chon himself or his close associates. Actually, with respect to promoting a new "Fifth Republic party," Chon himself and Secretary Min Chong-ki say, "We have never considered it at all." They say only that they are considering a number of options, including whether to leave the problem of recovery of honor to the judgment of history or to the judgment of the people (elections)." While this does not address the issue of who will be the principal in the lawsuit, at least they do admit that there is a clear intention to pursue a "lawsuit." It is safe to regard former director Chang's statement of intent to establish a new party as Chang's pursuit of a "lawsuit" in his capacity as Chon's political agent.

One of Chon's key confidants, who requested anonymity, characterizes Chon's recent frame of mind as follows. The confidant's remarks are organized just like a letter of complaint in a lawsuit and its urgency reflects well just how much the Yonhui-dong camp is preparing for litigation.

Although he did not divide his remarks into paragraphs, they do have a certain structure and can be easily classified into: President No's hidden past; President No's dishonesty toward governmental power; comparison of family and in-laws in the Third, Fifth, and Sixth republics; the problem of Chon's political funds; assessment of President No's achievements, and Yonnui-dong's measures for recovery of honor.

Yonhui-dong's "Letter of Complaint" for a Lawsuit

1. President No's Hidden Past

President No's biggest worry is his safety after he steps down from office. There is no guarantee that former President Chon's precedent will not be repeated. The fact that the cabinet system constitutional revision and dual executive system issue and the revival of the Advisory Council of Elder Statesmen have been under discussion in Chongwadae reflects well just how worried they are about his safety after his term ends.

Chongwadae is putting out feelers about post-presidential problems because of the role No played in the 12 December Incident and the events of early 1980 and concerns about the facts surrounding the 29 June declaration, which could decisively reverse his image.

From 12 December until early 1980 No served as commander of the 9th division, commander of the capital defense command, and commander of the DSC [Defense Security Command]. Chong Ho-yong, who was stigmatized as a core figure of the Fifth Republic and was even stripped of his National Assembly seat, has said, "If I am supposed to have been one of the Fifth Republic core group, then I was No. 100." His meaning is obvious.

A retired general once asked me, "Was President No a colonel in early 1980?" I was nonplused and replied, "Did he not go from Major General to Lieutenant General?" At that, he said, affecting ignorance, "Oh, did he?" It was then I grasped his meaning.

He wanted to remind me of President No's role in early 1980. A number of people who were called as witnesses in the hearings later said when they met with me, "I had no choice but to perjure myself. I am sorry. Someday I will tell the real story." One can guess what part they perjured themselves about.

At the time of the National Assembly hearings, the details of the all-commanders conference which was held just before 17 May and made the decision to declare emergency martial law was a subject of deep controversy. It has never been properly clarified, but the records of that meeting are probably being kept somewhere.

If two documents that are now being preserved are brought out, then the particulars of the 29 June declaration—such as who wrote it and what President No's position was—will come to light. As former director Chang said, several days before the 29 June Declaration was announced, its contents were known at the level of former president Chon and former director Chang. Because there is a possibility these documents might be stolen at any time, they are being kept dispersed in private, secret repositories, as were the official historical records during the Yi Dynasty.

Is it not already a well known fact that at the time of the constitutional revision predicament in 1986 former president Chon proposed consideration of a direct election system? It is known that even during the period of chaos in June 1987 he had decided to adopt a direct election system and at that time proposed this to Candidate No.

It is said that Candidate No vacillated in accepting this, however. Was his logic not that, "to adopt a highly risky direct election system would be very inopportune, and if we just sit tight I can be elected president through the electoral college?"

After deciding to adopt a direct election system, former president Chon even made several visits to President No, who was feeling somewhat downcast, to cheer him up. To liken the 29 June Declaration to the theater, the people who did the planning, producing, and directing were all different, and the starring actors were also different. But after the 29 June Declaration, it was a disheartening thing that the people who had played bit parts were portrayed as having had the starring roles. The majority of them were figures who had rejected the script itself. Former president Chon did not say a single thing about this, however. This was because he was thinking this was the way to assist President No.

2. Dishonesty Toward Governmental Power

Former President Chon—whether or not it was his own choice or others'—carried out his commitment to a single term. Maybe he did not want to leave and was shoved out, but he fulfilled the promise he made at his inauguration. The Sixth Republic scrapped the interim assessment it had promised the nation at the time of the presidential elections, however. It also put on indefinite hold its promise to institute a true-name system for financial transactions. No said that he would do a good job of managing his relatives and in-laws. But what about President No's relatives and in-laws now?

At the time of the presidential elections, in the context of the Fifth Republic, No promised he would control his relatives and in-laws. He received the judgment of the nation as the representative of the Fifth Republic and was elected president. As soon as he was inaugurated, however, he took the lead in breaking with the Fifth Republic. He rejected his own roots, trampled them, and tried to stand on top of them. The result was the National Assembly's public hearings on the Fifth Republic. The Sixth Republic was constrained by the fact that the ruling party was outnumbered by the opposition in the National Assembly and had no choice but to accept the hearings, and the Sixth Republic maintains it did its best to protect the Fifth Republic, given the situation. The root of the problem was their claim that it was because of the minority ruling party situation in the National Assembly, however. They only tried to use the fact that they were a minority ruling party in the power struggle between the Fifth and Sixth Republics.

Here is another violation of a promise. As the successor of the Fifth Republic, President No should have carried out his duty to be faithful and loyal to the Fifth Republic. If he had wanted to liquidate the legacy of the Fifth Republic, he should not have run as a candidate of the Fifth Republic or he should have made a commitment to the nation like a man. Now, when a new Seventh Republic gets under way and the Sixth Republic is called to accounts by a new regime, President No cannot object.

The incident involving the stripping of Chong Ho-yong of his National Assembly seat is a typical example of an authoritarian abuse of power of the Sixth Republic—which promised democratization—that was worse than anything in the past. In the end, Chong—who said that as a representative of the people he could not resign his seat—was forced to resign as a result of all sorts of regime pressure. In the process, President No practically stood in the vanguard directing this kind of violation of the law. At the time of the by-election in the So-kap district of Taegu, No charged National Assemblymen with responsibility for the elections in each ward and used them as election campaigners. Intensive surveillance was conducted not only on businessmen who had provided funds to Chong, but even on Chong's relatives and in-laws. In the end, Chong was forced to resign his candidacy to prevent harm to those around him.

Having committed this kind of illegality, how can No claim he is an honest president or a president who has strengthened the foundations of democracy? It is known that he wept when he received the nomination from President Chon at a meeting of the central executive committee of the Democratic Justice Party (DJP) held just before the party nominating convention on 10 June 1987. It was he—who had been moved to tears of gratitude—who was actually in the forefront of sending former President Chon to Paektam Temple, however.

With the launching of the Sixth Republic, No caused a commotion when he said he would pare down Chongwadae offices. He even highlighted this as a symbol of his removing authoritarianism. Yet just three months after he launched his administration, it returned to the "dark Chongwadae" of the Fourth Republic times. The Fourth Republic Chongwadae organs had expanded so much that they even put in partitions in the corridors of the main building and set up offices. In the Fifth Republic, these partitions were done away with and a fair number of offices were even cut back. One hears that the Sixth Republic has brought back these partitions, however.

3. Political Funds

It is not in former president Chon's nature to hold on to money. Even when he was a front-line division commander, when he was assigned to another post, he turned over leftover funds to his successor. They say he did this because he thought that if from the beginning of their tour the commanders asked for handouts from other organization heads or businesses in their area of control, they could not perform their duty properly.

When President No was a candidate, he tried to build up election funds on his own, but they fell short of his expectations, so he asked former president Chon for help. As has already been reported in the press, at that time Chon turned over the majority of his political funds to Candidate No. Also, when Chon stepped down, he turned over even his remaining funds to President No.

This was because after the first half of his term there was concern that if No went to the chaebol for a handout, his prestige as president would be damaged, and money was needed for the 26 April general elections, which were fast approaching. But Chon was used, if not by President No himself, then by his staffers. On the eve of the general elections, while former President Chon was in the United States, Chon Kyong-hwan was suddenly taken into custody.

After the elections, Chongwadae's animosity toward Yonhui-dong got even uglier. It ultimately surfaced and was followed by the whole Yonhui-dong family's being arrested.

Around June 1988 I felt the situation was uneasy, so I met with a person who had been called President No's right-hand or left-hand man. Thereupon that fellow abruptly asked, "Why do they keep holding on to it?"

He was intimating that former president Chon had turned over only 30-40 percent of the political war-chest that he had built up at the time of the presidential elections and that the rest of the money was still being held by Yonhui-dong, and this fellow wanted them to hurry up and cough it up. It was belatedly learned that Chongwadae had pressed Yonhui-dong for a "return of the remaining funds" by prodding the Advisory Council of Elder Statesmen, and when that did not work, they went ahead and arrested Chon Kyong-hwan.

Before the election, former President Chon often went to meet with Candidate No at Chon's private residence in Yonhui-dong. At that spot, a large portion of the political funds were secretly transferred to Candidate No. It is known that a substantial part of the transferred funds found their way to private organizations such as the Laurel Club. It is believed that in the process Candidate No did not reveal the source of the funds, and that confused those people who at that time were in public organizations. How, and with what funds, could Pak Chol-on or No Chae-u organize and operate those massive private organizations? Through such a process, former president Chon turned over virtually the entire war-chest which had been built up. In late 1988, when agreement was reached between Chongwadae and Yonhui-dong on returning the political funds to the state treasury, a comic incident occurred. Chongwadae put out a rumor in the press that the Yonhui-dong group had "diverted vast sums of money" and kept insisting, "The people will not believe you unless you turn over around 10 billion won."

But the Yonhui-dong people did not have that much money and Chongwadae knew it. The end result was the not-so-funny spectacle of Chongwadae itself anteing up a considerable portion of political funds to make up the target amount. It had tied its own hands by irresponsible press play and was trying to save face by taking a big bite out of its own pocketbook. Even so, Chongwadae could save face and send the Yonhui-dong people, who were a thorn in the side, into exile, but at the price of leaving President Chon badly scarred and hard to recover.

In the early period of the Fifth Republic, the chaebol seemed to have a mountain of worries concerning the new ruling group. That was because the new people never asked the chaebol for a handout. The chaebol would have been relieved if the new ruling group had asked for money and in return facilitated their business dealings, but they were utterly bewildered. At that time, instead of going to the chaebol for a handout, former president Chon used "leftover political funds of the Fourth Republic" and did not make inappropriate utterances to the chaebol. He was concerned for President No with this in mind, but it seems his good intentions were repaid with malice.

4. The Problem of Relatives and In-laws

One of the "principal culprits of Fifth Republic irregularities" was Chon U-hwan, Chon's cousin. He took 5.4 million won in bribes, according to the prosecutor's indictment, for which he received a prison sentence. According to the press, he was the No. 5 principal offender. This has to be symbolic of the reality of the Fifth Republic irregularities.

Chon Kyong-hwan received 7.8 billion won in bribes, and if we tally up the total amount for Chon Ki-hwan and Yi Chang-sok, who were arrested for involvement in the irregularities of the Fifth Republic, the figure would be around 9 billion won for just the items that appeared in the court decision. This is the sum total, translated into currency terms, of the Fifth Republic irregularities, which created such an uproar.

But what did the Republican Party regime do? The assets of one foundation run by Pak Kun-hye [Pak Chong-hui's daughter] amounted to several tens of billions of won at market prices, and what about the enterprises operated by incumbent politicians who are relatives of President Pak Chong-hui and his family? Even after leaving himself a fortune to live off for the rest of his life, Kim Chong-pil, who was a brother-in-law of Pak Chong-hui, donated to the state several tens of billions of won in early 1980. A certain person named Yu, who was likewise an in-law of Pak, in early 1980 had something on the order of 4 billion won on deposit in a single account in the Chohung Bank.

5. Fifth, Sixth Republic Reconciliation and Recovery of Honor: Viewpoints and Measures

President No and some of the other core figures of the Fifth Republic maintain they have been judged through the elections, but they are trying to deprive other figures of the Fifth Republic of the opportunity for a verdict of the people. Instead, they are continuing to try to convict them through a "people's court" or trial by media. The political and economic results of the Fifth Republic can be judged only by the people. The opinions of former president Chon and the Yonhui-dong group have not been sorted out, however. How to be judged and restore their honor has not been determined.

Former director Chang has signalled his intention of promoting a new political party, but he has not discussed this with Yonhui-dong at all. As former director Chang said, his ideas are unrelated to those of Yonhui-dong, and this is indeed the case. Since making this announcement, Chang has virtually stopped visiting Yonhui-dong. Ho Mun-to, who shares the same views with Chang, also has practically cut off all contacts with Yonhui-dong.

Since former director Chang is a very discreet person, he probably expressed his views only after fully considering all the ramifications. It is believed that he spoke with the conviction that it could succeed. But I think his judgment was wrong.

The mood is swinging in former director Chang's direction, but it is doubtful that a leadership force for the new party will emerge. His "new party" has no bearing on the people's verdict of the Fifth Republic. To receive that verdict, they must stand squarely and openly before the nation in the name of the Fifth Republic. As noted above, however, their positions have not been sorted out.

Up to now, former president Chon has judged it was necessary, in the interests of national development and political stability, for him as the former president to help the incumbent president, so he acquiesced in all of President No's demands. Now there is no longer any reason or any need to acquiesce to the demands of the incumbent president, however. The issues related to former President Chon's course of action have all been resolved, and what remains is only the personal relationship between Chon and No.

The private problems between the two men are centered about their personal reconciliation and the relationship between the Fifth Republic and the Sixth Republic. The human relationship must be solved by Chon and No on a personal basis, and the relationship with the Fifth Republic must be resolved formally. With respect to this problem, it will be solved after watching Chongwadae's attitude. But there is skepticism whether Chon can maintain the personal relationship with President No any longer. As far as Yonhui-dong is concerned, they need nothing from No and there is no problem concerning national development.

Therefore, sooner or later the day for receiving a just verdict will come and we will be prepared for this. From now on we have to consider whether we will directly confront it or leave it to history. A few close figures are even very excited about it. They maintain that they must stand before the nation and reveal those things that must be revealed. This could take the form of a new Fifth Republic party, or there still remains the option of everyone running for office as independents and regrouping after making progress individually.

On 31 December 1989, after the National Assembly hearings had ended, former president Chon came back to Paektam Temple and held a New Year's celebration with some confidants who had been waiting for him. He told them: "Now that the testimony has been completed, I am going to forget everything that has happened over the past two years. Up to now I have done everything President No has asked me to do for the sake of national development and political stability. From now on, I will bury all the past and resume my former relationship with President No. I ask all of you to do your part to see that it happens."

"We Must Stand Before the Nation and Reveal What Must Be Revealed"

It has been difficult to achieve his dream and hopes, however. Not long after the New Year's celebration, President No merged parties with Kim Yong-sam, who had practically taken the lead in the probe of the Fifth Republic. From the beginning, he tried to exile the Yonhui-dong family not to Paektam Temple, to a different remote place. He even tried to send them abroad. When Chon said he would return to Yonhui-dong, No even threatened him by saying, "We cannot protect you any longer." Under these circumstances, what could Yonhui-dong do?

What I have been narrating so far is the opinion of "Chon's confidants." Even though their seething feelings are completely revealed, I cannot say that everything they claim is true or that it represents the ideas of Chon himself. The important thing, however, is what they think of President No at this point and in what direction they might solve their problem.

In the court of politics, power determines right and wrong. If an election is held, only by winning can they be acknowledged as right, and if they lose, of course, that is the end of it. Consequently, it is natural that we pay attention to how the Yonhui-dong group is building up its own forces for the political "lawsuit."

In the Yonhui-dong camp, despite formal denials of persons concerned, the issue of promoting a new party has been deeply debated internally. Even though a sharp debate took place within the camp over the nucleus of a new party, there is no disputing the fact that this has been considered as an "individual way to recover the honor of the Fifth Republic."

The controversy generally is developing in three directions. The first view holds that for a fair trial of the Fifth Republic, the nucleus of the new party should be the Yonhui-dong camp with Chon at the top. The second view holds that, inasmuch as the Yonhui-dong camp would meet with stiff resistance should it be the nucleus, the new party should be fronted by conservative forces who are critical of or have been alienated by the present ruling party. The third view is that it is not too late for political aspirants to run independently in the general elections and launch a new party on the basis of those results.

Except for differences in terms of methodology—whether to follow a radical or a realistic approach—all three views endorse the opinion that it is essential that the Fifth Republic stage a political comeback.

Former director Chang apparently belongs to the second group. Therefore, he is extremely critical of the first view and says that if anyone thinks the political comeback will succeed through Yi Yang-u and Min Chong-ki and others belonging to the first group, they're mistaken.

In the eyes of persons who have observed most closely the thinking of Yonhui-dong and especially Chon, former director Chang's goals are not regarded as easily attainable, however. They see his remarks as merely a formal declaration of a Fifth Republic political comeback—for which there is a minimum of sympathy—to those inside and outside political circles. They say that to give it any more significance than that is over-interpreting.

If we go ahead and give it added significance anyway, we can explain it as a threat to force Chongwadae to accept Yonhui-dong demands and, further, Chang's breaking his long silence and formally affirming his candidacy.

Abandoning the Multi-Seat Electoral System In the Face of a Fifth Republic Political Comeback

The moves to stage a Fifth Republic political comeback are a greater and more powerful "threat" to the present ruling party than generally is thought. First of all, to the current ruling group—which had cut itself off from the Fifth Republic and tried to prove its political legitimacy through condemning the Fifth Republic—it is a stronger adversary in terms of destructive capability than the existing opposition party. Secondly, if they field top notch candidates in the general elections, the ruling party will suffer a sharp organizational split and fissures in its support base. Obviously this will bring about fatal results in the election campaign, because even in a one-on-one contest, in a tightly contested match, they would have to fight with their organization and support base divided in two.

Third, there is a good possibility they would launch an all out mudslinging campaign against President No through the legal device of elections, and irreparably discredit the ruling party's integrity. The point is, whether President No and the ruling group won or lost the election they would be badly bloodied in the course of the campaign.

Accordingly, Chang's announcement about a Fifth Republic political comeback had to be countered at once by the ruling camp. The ruling camp immediately announced that it was completely scrapping the multi-seat electoral system, which had been under serious consideration. Risking friction with the Democratic Party faction of the DLP, Chongwadae withdrew the plan for a multi-seat electoral system, which it had been aggressively pushing as a means of revitalizing the election climate. One of the reasons for withdrawing the proposal was that "it could provide a situation favorable to Fifth Republic political aspirations."

Indeed, Kim Yun-hwan, the secretary general of the party, launched a persuasion campaign aimed at the Democratic Justice Party (DJP) faction assemblymen who were advocating the revamping of the electoral system. His argument was that the multi-seat electoral system would help the comeback of Fifth Republic figures to the political scene, and it would greatly threaten President No's position.

This is a digression, but from the period when Chon was at Paektam Temple, the ruling group had assiduously, albeit covertly, hindered people from gathering in its environs. They subjected local supporters who visited Paektam Temple to tax audits and tried to block their access to Chon at the source.

That is how sensitive the present ruling group is to the Fifth Republic's reemergence as a political force.

Efforts of the Yonhui-dong group to make the Fifth Republic a political force have been promoted continuously, albeit covertly, however. A typical example is the "mountain walks" of Chon and his confidants, which have been going on ever since Chon left Paektam Temple. After leaving the temple, early in the year, as soon as circumstances permitted, he began to go up into the mountains leading his "family." At first it was just Chon and former director Chang, his bodyguard chief An Hyon-tae, former minister Ho, Secretary Min, and lawyer Yi Yang-u and all their wives.

From about last June, other retainers of the Fifth Republic joined them and they formed a group that could well be called an "alpine society." This group, husbands and wives together, visits famous mountains in the vicinity of Seoul every Thursday when there is nothing special going on. Therefore, although they do not have a special name, they generally refer to themselves as the Thursday Alpine Club.

At present, the main members of this group besides Chon are his faithful retainers, former director Chang, former office chief An, Secretary Min, lawyer Yi, former minister Ho, and other former ministers who served during the Fifth Republic. These include former defense minister Chu Yong-pok, former education minister Son Che-sik, former construction minister Yi Kyu-ho, former justice minister Kim Song-ki, former transportation minister Cha Kyu-hon, former agriculture and fisheries minister Kim Chu-ho, former director of general administration Chong Kwan-yong, former Chongwadae secretaries Chong Ku-ho, Hwang Son-pil, Pak Yong-chol, former Chongwadae senior secretary Yi Chae-sik, and former army chief of staff Pak Hui-to, former DSC commander Ko Myong-sung, and former Korean National Police director Kwon Pok-kyong.

"Armed Demonstration" of the "Thursday Alpine Club"

Even on the surface it is fairly threatening. Among these people, former army chief of staff Pak, with his deep-rooted military connections, criticized head-on President No's Nordpolitik and Fifth Republic policies and stepped down from his chief of staff position without serving the full term. Former DSC commander Ko also had to retire from the military earlier than expected for the sole reason that he was one of Chon's men. Afterwards, President No offered both of them important government posts to pacify them, but they rebuffed the offer and have been remaining loyal to Chon.

In addition, among Chon's relatives and in-laws, former assemblyman Kim Sang-ku, Chon Chae-kuk and Yi Chang-suk frequently go along on the mountain walks. On the other hand, former NSP director Chang has not gone along on the mountain walks since he announced on 9 August his intention to promote a new party. Former minister Ho has not gone on the mountain walks since he made his decision to be a candidate in Kosong, South Kyongsang Province. This is interpreted as meaning not that they have left the Yonhui-dong camp, however, but rather that they want to put some distance between themselves and the Yonhui-dong group for a while to accomplish the role given them by the Yonhui-dong camp.

Of course, they bristle when people impute political significance to their group. They say it is a simply a group of alienated people going up to the mountains together, and when they climb the mountain, they discuss "things that everyone talks about" and that they are not having meaningful discussions concerning a particular political topic.

What the general populace—not to mention the core ruling group—sees when they look at this group, however, is not just some people "going up to the mountain for exercise." In the eyes of Chongwadae particularly it even looks like an "armed demonstration." It looks suspicious first of all because people at that social level are not out playing golf, but have chosen to go mountain climbing, which is extremely plebeian and which inevitably leads to frequent contact with the general public.

In particular, in our country's milieu, thanks to Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam's Democratic Alpine Club, mountain climbing itself has come to have a considerable political meaning. Therefore, it can be regarded as a kind of exercise for the common man or a gambit for gaining political influence. In Executive Chairman Kim's case, during his long period of political restriction since 1980, he signalled his own political message through the mountain-climbing activities of his Democratic Alpine Club.

Next, the fact that the majority of members of the alpine society are individuals looking for a political comeback, has been more than sufficient to stir suspicions that they have political aspirations. Also, the fact that all of these people are extremely critical of various policies of the Sixth Republic weighs heavily on Chongwadae.

Indeed, with the exception of former justice minister Kim, none of these people has occupied so much as one of the ubiquitous government investment agency director positions. Rather, former minister Cha was jailed for involvement in the Fifth Republic irregularities, retired generals Pak and Ko, and former police director Kwon were stripped of their positions before serving their full term, and former minister Chu and others were called before the parliamentary hearings and suffered bitter insults. It is not very likely that they would be kindly disposed toward the Sixth Republic.

Of these people, former chief of staff Pak and former commander Ko have decided to run for election respectively in Changnyong, South Kyongsang Province and Puan, North Cholla Province and are already out cultivating grassroots support, which is attracting attention. Former ministers Son, Yi, and Kim and even former senior secretaries Hwang and Chong are eyeing an election bid in their home areas. Among Chon's relatives and in-laws, Chon Chae-kuk is busily preparing to run in Hapchon, South Kyongsang Province and former Assemblyman Kim in Kimchon, North Kyongsang Province.

When we include former director Chang, who has staked out the Kangdong district of Seoul, and former Minister Ho of Kosong, South Kyongsang Province, there are altogether more than 10 members of the alpine club eyeing the 14th general elections. Predictions are that the majority of them have excellent prospects for election or have a good possibility of coming out as a dark horse. So, no matter how much the Thursday Alpine Club says it is "a form of exercise of alienated people," in the final analysis it strongly resembles a political association.

"Compromise on the Precipice"—President No's Options

Besides the alpine club, which constitutes the top leadership of the old Fifth Republic, there are ancillary groups such as the Minu-hoe (Democratic Friendship Association). The Minu-hoe is composed of persons who had been DJP National Assemblymen or had lost in elections in the Sixth Republic. They include Chang Song-man, Chong Chae-chol, Kim Suk-hyon, Pak Ik-chu, Kim Chong-nam, Yom Kil-chong, and Yi Sang-ik. Another "alienated group," they have a tenacious spiritual affinity with the Yonhui-dong people.

For the reader's information, a concerned individual responsible for organization in the DLP has even said that prospects are that even under the single-seat electoral system, about 23 or 24 independent candidates would be elected, the majority of whom would probably be people with Fifth Republic ties.

Since these were the prospects before the opposition merger, there will have to be a considerable reexamination of the situation, but it shows just how the DLP assesses these people with ties to the Fifth Republic.

It is still too early, however, to conclude that the initial series of Yonhui-dong moves are aimed at individual recovery of honor and a single-round bout with President No. These moves could be directed at forcing President No's "sincere efforts." But it is clear that the possibility of removing the bad feelings between No and Chon and the confrontation between the Fifth and Sixth Republics by so-called compromise have become extremely low. According to the "precipice theory" that President No likes to bring up whenever things get tough, both sides will engage in a confrontation of strength right up to the very edge of the precipice—that is, a head-on clash—and then there is a good possibility they will find a breakthrough at the last second.

As far as a compromise on the precipice is concerned, however, because of various unfavorable factors such as the sudden shrinking of No's political status as the end of his term approaches, and the enormous pressure on matters related to his post-presidential life, it appears that President No will have to yield on even more things. In the case of Chon, as long as there is nothing else he founders on, according to the principle of not putting a person in double jeopardy and the principle that one cannot be punished twice for the same offense, he is sitting pretty.

Therefore, we may assume that the direction of a compromise on the precipice will be determined according to President No's judgment as to which person—Chon or Executive Chairman Kim—can more reliably guarantee his own future. The camp of Executive Chairman Kim and the Democratic Party faction of the DLP is making efforts to lock up the presidential candidacy through an alliance among Chairman Kim, No, and Chon, but Chon's side is showing even greater antipathy toward Executive Chairman Kim's side than toward President No.

If Executive Chairman Kim takes over supreme power, there is a good possibility that it will be difficult for Chon to escape a second death, and the hopes for a restoration of the honor of the Fifth Republic will burst like a bubble. It is known that Executive Chairman Kim's side, in order to "pacify" the Yonhui-dong group—which is the biggest stumbling block to Kim's design for power—recently sent a "secret emissary" to former director Chang, but retreated when Chong told him, "There is no reason to meet."

* No Tae-u Meets Members of Party for Masses

922C0062 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 Nov 91 p 3

[Article by reporters Kim Hyon-il and Chong Son-ku: "Progressive Power Extends Its Position in the Established Political System"]

[Text] The Chongwadae [Presidential Office] meeting on 18 November between President No and three senior members of the progressive Party of the Masses (PM), Executive Representative Yi U-che, Secretary General Yi Che-o, and Policy Committee Chairman Chang Ki-pyo, is considered to be significant in the sense that it is the first meeting between the incumbent president and progressive party leaders in modern Korean history.

Many progressive political parties had been founded since the first Republic was born in 1948, but none has survived because of the ruling power's mindset equating progressives with leftists.

President No's decision to exchange opinions on various issues with the progressive party is getting positive remarks. It is because No's effort are considered to be attempts to enhance the progressive party's status by accommodating it within the established political system.

On the other hand, the PM is trying to take advantage of this opportunity to change the party's image in preparation for the 14th general election. The party is trying to promote its reform movement within the existing system, rather than blindly trying to overthrow the government. Such a change is considered to be an extremely progressive attitude for the party. Despite the positive aspect, some members of the opposition circle suspect President No's attempt as a tactic of splitting the opposition circle.

The meeting is a result of determined efforts of the PM. The party suggested meeting the president at a press conference on 28 October and sent an official letter to the president. Secretary General Yi Che-o then contacted Son Chu-hwan, senior presidential secretary on political affairs, four times before the meeting abruptly materialized.

Chongwadae accepted the offer based on two reasons. One is to demonstrate the president's encouragement and support for the PM's willingness to cooperate within the existing system. The other is that the meeting will provide a positive aspect for improving the relationship with North Korea.

Senior Presidential Secretary Son, who played a key role in arranging the meeting, explained that the idea of meeting with leaders of the progressive party not only matches the president's desire for democratization but also makes much positive contribution in promoting a dialogue with North Korea.

Son also said that the progressive party's willingness to talk with the established political system is a change in its position. It reflects an adherence to the principles of constitutionalism and parliamentarism, rather than a struggle to go far beyond the boundary of the established system. Since the significance of the meeting is in confirming the party's intention, the most important thing is the meeting itself, Son emphasized.

President No praised the PM leaders' decision at the meeting and pressed them to change their position of opposing the government's role as a unified channel of dialogue between South and North Korea. He also urged them to criticize North Korea's nuclear arms development as a responsible political party.

No also promised that if the PM carries out its main function as a progressive political power, he will try to help the party settle down within the political system, and will seriously consider a publicly managed election system and a means to provide political funds.

Since the government as well as the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) are seriously considering financial support for the PM, it appears that this meeting will be an occasion for the waning party to take root.

The PM leaders, including the executive representative Yi U-che, requested five items to the president: implement an election system completely managed by publics, make a fair distribution of political funds, adopt a proportionate representation system based on the number of winning votes in the election of national assemblymen, grant pardon and restoration of rights for political prisoners of the PM, and release conscientious prisoners. The request was especially focused on the distribution of political funds.

The party leaders strongly urged the president to change the current system of allocating political funds solely according to the number of assemblymen to a new weighted system by considering the number of district party chapters (40%), number of winning votes (30%), and the number of National Assembly seats (30%). They also urged that the number of non-elected assemblymen should be proportionate to the number of winning votes.

They further proposed to the president to restore the deprived rights of approximately 40 PM members, especially the seven members, including secretary general Yi Che-o, who want to run for the forthcoming general election.

Although on the surface the PM leaders put weight on the fact that it is the first meeting between members of a progressive party and the incumbent president, they are trying hard to obtain a tangible result from it.

Secretary General Yi said, "The meeting has more significance in reinforcing the political status of the progressive party than in gaining something from asking." Yi also said, "The most practically important issue for the party, however, is pardon and the reinstatement of some of the party members. These are some unique rights of the president."

Policy Committee Chairman Chang did not hide the party's strategy to take advantage of this opportunity to achieve its goal of stepping in the legislative system by saying that, "Revision of laws related to politics should be made through negotiations between the ruling and opposition parties anyway. The president should at least make a promise of the distribution of non-elected assemblymen according to the number of winning votes and the allocation of a certain portion of political funds subsidized by the government to minority parties, however."

On the occasion of the meeting with the president, the PM said, "The current domestic political order should be changed to a harmonious system between the healthy conservative ruling and opposition power and the progressive power in preparation for the reunification between the South and the North. This meeting will be an occasion for changing the people's tendency to overly avoid progressivism."

The recently unified Democratic Party [DP] raised their eyebrows at the meeting. The DP showed suspicions about the ruling party's true intention of the meeting as an election strategy to block the possibility of cooperation among the opposition circles by enhancing the status of the PM.

Kim Tae-chung, the DP's joint representative, disclosed his opinion at a press conference on 16 November saying, "Unless national security laws are abolished and progressive minded prisoners are released in advance, the meeting between PM leaders and the president can be misunderstood as a scheme aimed at splitting the opposition circle and eventually will split it."

Yi Che-o, secretary general of the PM, criticized Kim's comments saying, "It is a typical comment by old-fashioned politicians from being jealous at other people's success. It is nonsense to say that the meeting is aimed at splitting the opposition circle." The PM said it will clear possible misunderstandings caused by the meeting by suggesing a combined nomination of candidates with the DP for the general election.

The ruling circle intends to downgrade the position of the pretentious DP as being the backbone of the unified opposition party, however, by bringing up the existence of the PM. Observers also strongly suspect that the ruling circle is trying to cut off students and workers from cooperating with the DP by meeting with the progressive party members who exercise influence over them. Since the ruling party failed to accomplish its strategy of overhauling the political structure after joining the United Nations with the North as a regular member, through the unification of former New Democratic Party and the DP, the ruling party has been deliberating new means of coping with the political situation. Therefore, the ruling circle cannot escape from suspicions that this meeting is influenced by its implicit strategy of trying to divide the opposition circle into conservative and progressive groups. Consequently, it is likely that there will be a revival of an internal struggle concerning the party line within the PM caused by the radicals' reaction to the meeting. It is also anticipated that the relationship between the ruling and the oppsition circles will become awkward; and some ripples are anticipated.

New Political Reform Party Launched 25 Feb

SK2602020492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Another opposition party, the New Political Reform Party, was launched yesterday with Rep. Pak Chan-chong being appointed the party's executive chairman.

The new party also elected Rep. Kim Tuk-su and former professor Chong Yong-taek of Hanyang University party co-chairmen.

Rep. Kim joined the party recently after he was not renominated by the opposition Democratic Party.

The participants in the inaugural convention chose former information minister O Chae-kyong, former lawmaker Kim Chae-wi and Cho Man-chae, chairman of a private research institute, as party advisors, and picked Rep. Song Kyong-sop and Rep. Pak's secretary Kim Tong-chu as secretary general and spokesman, respectively.

Illegal, Corrupt Electioneering Continues

SK2602020192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] **Free lunch and tours, and various kinds of gifts, including cash, in great quantities are used to buy the support of voters in premature campaigning for the March 24 Assembly elections.**

The proclamation of war by political parties against illegal and corrupt practices has proved to be bunkum in the initial phase of electioneering, casting dark clouds over hopes for a fair and clean election atmosphere.

After a rally sponsored by the Seoul Songdong-B local chapter of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Monday, the organizers doled out gifts of cake to the participants, in clear violation of election laws.

The rally site of the Seoul Mapo-B chapter of the opposition Democratic Party [DP] Sunday turned into a mess when the organizers distributed bread as presents.

It was hard to find rally organizers in any other electoral districts who had participants leave the site with empty hands.

A photo of the handing over of "cash gifts" at a rally site in Kyongsangnam-to was carried by a vernacular newspaper Monday. The Central Election Management Committee has brought the case to the attention of police.

Many candidates are fiercely competing in mobilizing large numbers of people to their rallies in attempts to demonstrate their strong base of support.

Kang Sin-cho of Yongyang-Ponghwa, Kyongsangpuk-to, gathered some 7,000 "followers" at a rally last Thursday, Kim Pok-tong of Taegu East-A stood second with 5,000, followed by O Chang-sop of Yesan, Chungchongnam-to with a similar number. They are all from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

Kang is accused of offering free coupons for lunch to a large number of "non-party members." Others are also known to have liberally distributed "gifts" to citizens in return for taking part in their rallies.

Reports have it that the ruling camp is forcing hopeful rival contenders out, using various unlawful, unethical means. Reps. O Han-ku and Chong Chang-hwa, who were denied candidate nomination by the DLP, asserted that they were intimidated to drop out of the race by the authorities. They were running as independents.

DLP Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan partly supported their assertion by saying, "They made an oath not to run as independents or candidates of other parties if they failed to be nominated by the party."

A DLP nominee in Kyongsangpuk-to reportedly bought off rival campaigners for tens of millions of won and another candidate of the ruling party in Kyonggi-to offered free tours for voters.

The election watchdog body and the opposition DP are gathering evidence to support the allegations.

On top of this, there are numerous cases of "abnormal" practices of campaigners who are taking advantage of loopholes in election laws.

Candidate Arrested for Election Law Violation

SK2602070992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—The Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office Wednesday ordered the Masan District prosecutor to arrest Yi Kang-tu, chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] Kochang District chapter, and the chapter's secretary-general on charges of distributing cash in violation of the election law.

The arrest of Yi, 55, former minister in the Korean Embassy in Moscow, will mark the first of a candidate in the campaign for the March 24 general elections.

Each person at a district chapter reorganization meeting on Feb. 23 was suspected of receiving 10,000 to 30,000 won, 30 million won in all, the prosecution said.

Yi and Secretary-general Shin Tae-pom, 55, said they had handed out the money to the participants in the meeting as "trip or lunch fare."

So far, 64 have been booked in 49 cases of illegal campaigning related to the elections, including DLP Rep. Chung Dong-sung and 11 other lawmakers, according to the prosecution.

In addition, the prosecution has told the Taegu District prosecutor to find out if there is enough evidence to charge Kim Pok-tong with violating the election law.

Kim is suspected of giving out towels at a DLP Taegu East-A District chapter reorganization meeting Feb. 12.

In response to the prosecution's action, the DLP announced Wednesday that it had replaced Yi Kang-tu with Yi Hyon-mok, a party Central Committee member. The district chapter chairman is automatically the party's candidate for the National Assembly.

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the DLP, issued a statement saying that party policy was to conduct the general elections cleanly and fairly, and that party members would be punished if they violated this policy.

Trade Minister Interviewed on Trade Policy

SK2502020692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD (Supplement) in English 25 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Han Pong-su, minister of trade and industry—place and date not given]

[Text] [THE KOREA HERALD] Could you compare the domestic and international trade environments this year with those of the preceding year?

[Han Pong-su] The year of 1992, the first to implement the 7th Economic and Social Development Plan, is poised for such significant turning points as four nationwide elections both politically and economically. [as published] All in the economic field will be subject to new challenge.

Externally the international trade environment is expected to improve due to such factors as the booming economies of advanced countries, stronger Japanese yen currency and more stable raw material prices in the international market.

Negative factors, in the meantime, to our exports are summed up as the accelerating trend of rendering economic blocs like the integration of the European Community into a single market, and the confusion in world economy caused by the collapse of the socialist economic bloc.

Internally, structurally thorny problems lie ahead this year, like manpower shortage, technological gap with advanced countries and the shortage of facilities needed by social overhead capital, along with the fear of spiraling inflation caused by social disturbances after several elections this year.

[THE KOREA HERALD] What do you think are the major reasons or ways of resolving the nation's ballooning trade deficit which approached nearly $10 billion last year?

[Han] Last year Korean exports remained the limitation of less than 10 percent [as published] in terms of growth rate without the recovery of its product competitiveness because of some structural problems, apart from the factor of economic stagnation of advanced countries.

In light of imports, they rose by 20 percent due to the exploding domestic demand from the booming construction industry.

This year the government's policies will focus on promoting exports and restraining import-causing demands. As the economies of advanced countries are likely to pick up steam this year, the government will try to beef up the price and quality competitiveness of our products under the policy to strengthen the international competitiveness of the nation's manufacturing sector, while making the capital flow smoother for exporters and strengthening the back-up for them in terms of overseas marketing.

Along with such efforts to boost exports, it is imperative that we should sustain the nation's economic growth by reducing import demands in a bid to improve balance of payments.

To accomplish this, the government will lead the sharply increasing imports of construction materials last year to be replaced with those of domestic origin this year. When it comes to petroleum products and machinery, the major import items of the country, our ministry plans to push ahead with such policies as to save energy and to bring about an import substitution effect for machinery.

[THE KOREA HERALD] What are the additional or new policies to back up Korean exporters in terms of capital and manpower?

[Han] Along with its policy to expand the trade finance for the export firms, both small and large ones, the government has pushed its plan to supply industrial manpower as part of its efforts to beef up the international competitiveness of the manufacturing sector.

The government is hammering out the possibility to establish a policy of preferential facility finance for export firms, while enhancing the efficiency of the utilization of trade notes and making the best use of manpower trained abroad by exporters.

[THE KOREA HERALD] What do you think are the effective measures of import restriction enough not to bring about aggravated trade frictions?

[Han] The government's fundamental policy is to avoid direct and quantitative restriction in imports and to avoid trade skirmishes which may affect the nation's exports, thus maintaining the proper level of imports.

As the recent reason for rapidly increasing imports consists in the over-consumption of energy resources and overheated construction investment in the country, we will concentrate our efforts on maintaining the nation's imports at the proper level through the following policy objectives: to restrain imports through total demand control by reflecting on the national stable economic growth, to limit the quantity of housing construction to a level enough to be satisfied by domestic supplies in terms of manpower and raw materials, to restrict excessive energy consumption over the economic growth rate and to improve the foreign currency loan system causing the increase of imports.

The government, in the meantime, has set its sight on import substitution continuing to domestically produce machinery, parts and raw materials and encouraging domestic firms to purchase newly developed parts and materials. It is going to make the best use of the industrial damage survey system, which is the post-countermeasure against the damage done for domestic industries due to the recklessly increasing imports from abroad.

[THE KOREA HERALD] Could you comment on the ways to overcome trade frictions with the United States, the nation's largest export market?

[Han] Korea has been maintaining mutually close relations with the long-standing trading partner amid ever keen worldwide competition. Desirably enough, the trade structure between the two countries has recently weighed towards a balance, while pending trade issues between them are on their way to smooth resolution through bilateral close talks.

New problems, however, are taking place more in the level of business rather than in the aspect of trade policy. They are summed up as the reduced trade volume and stagnant trading activities, delayed customs clearance and food quarantine.

The government will push ahead with the policy to increase technological and industrial cooperation, as well as to speedily cope with new pending trade disputes, under the fundamental direction to expand trade volume and consolidate traditional bilateral relations.

[THE KOREA HERALD] What do you think are the factors of the chronic trade deficit with Japan or the ways of resolving it?

[Han] As of November 1991, the nation's trade deficit with the neighboring country reached $8.2 billion or 76 percent of the total trade deficit, which has chronically become a hot potato for the Korean economy.

It is mainly attributable to the considerable technological gap between the two countries and vulnerable industrial structure. Particularly in terms of exports, Korea has undergone sluggish [as published] in such items as textiles, electronic and electric products and primary industrial goods, except for steel and metal products which showed merely a 16.9 percent increase.

By sharp contrast, Korea's imports of machinery, the item with the largest overseas dependence ratio have increased by 33.1 percent, which indicated that the nation's reliance on Japan in intermediate and capital goods still remains structurally high.

In a move to resolve the chronic structural problem, the government plans to beef up the international competitiveness of the Korean manufacturing sector by narrowing down the technological gap between the two countries through the intensive efforts to develop core technologies subject to higher reliance on Japan, also with the scheme to domestically produce machinery, parts and raw materials on a long-term perspective.

In addition, on a short-term basis, it is geared up for such objectives as to upgrade the image of Korean products through fairs, to expand the base for exports aggressively and to back up the marketing activities through the export promotion fund.

The government's efforts, however, are likely to have some limitations, as the problem remains structural. A more significant key is how the private sector can accumulate and develop technical know-how to catch up with that of Japanese high technology.

[THE KOREA HERALD] What are the other policies to accelerate cooperation with Japan?

[Han] Korea's technology introduction from Japan exceeds 50 percent of the nation's entire technology transfer. Though the neighboring country is Korea's largest partner for technology cooperation, its portion accounts for merely 31 percent. Technologies transferred from Japan mostly remain low-and middle-class ones, which means that the quality of technology is far from satisfactory.

Technological cooperation between the two countries is divided into the public sector and the private sector. The technical cooperation in the private sector has been weak for the fear of a boomerang effect from Japan, whereas the cooperation in the public sector has gone relatively smooth.

The government has been making its best effort to promote trade and technology cooperation between the two countries by readjusting related systems through ministerial-level talks and industrial technology cooperation conferences.

Also it has been making a strong drive to lower tariff rates or get rid of non-tariff barriers for major Korean export products, along with the cooperation projects concerning small- and medium-sized firms and automation technology.

One of the short-term resolutions for current bilateral economic problems between Korea and Japan is to bring about friendly and rational transactions among various organizations or private enterprises.

[THE KOREA HERALD] What are the policies to bring about substantial economic relations with such countries as China, Vietnam and those in East Europe in a way to reduce any risks expected?

[Han] In concurrence with the government's diplomatic policy directions, our ministry will continue to develop trade policies conforming to its "northern politics" in a substantial move to bring in economically tangible results.

In particular, along with our efforts to expand and diversify export markets, we will make a strong push for cooperation in natural resources and technology. Our economic support for northern countries will be provided within our capability by effecting on-the-spot investment in full consideration of their peculiar economic features.

[THE KOREA HERALD] The matter of how to expand economic cooperation with North Korea seems to be one of the major economic agenda this year. What is your specific measure?

[Han] As the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Exchanges was adopted last December through the inter-Korean talks, they have entered into the era of significant turning point in the history of their relations. In accordance with the agreement, brisk inter-Korean economic cooperation is just around the corner. Also high expectations are that inter-Korean direct trade and investment will be actively developing.

The trade volume between North and South Koreas, mostly indirect, amounted to some $200 million last year. North Korea brought in $173 million worth of products including synthetic fibers, textiles, color TV sets, sugar, soaps and other industrial goods, largely daily commodities, whereas South Korea introduced lead, gold, silver, frozen pollacks, nuts, raw cotton, herb medicine and other agricultural and fishery products.

Government Urged To Lift 'Pressure' on Hyundai

SK2602023192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Chong Chu-yong, businessman-turned leader of the Unification National Party, yesterday warned that the Hyundai Group would be pushed into bankruptcy unless the government lifted its checks on the flow of funds to the group, maintaining that this "pressure" on Hyundai would lead to the collapse of the entire Korean economy.

When asked about rumors concerning the No Tae-u administration's "oppression on Hyundai" including a second intensive tax probe, he told a weekly press conference that "pressure on the group directly means pressure on the entire national economy."

His remarks instantly invited bitter repercussion from the ruling camp turning the controversy into a propaganda war in the face of the March 24 parliamentary elections.

Chong, founder of the nation's largest conglomerate, said, "It is true that (Hyundai) is finding it difficult (in raising funds).... If the government keeps pressing it, Hyundai could eventually go bankrupt. In that case, it would bring about a series of bankruptcies in one-third of all Koreans business firms."

Noting that Hyundai's turnover in its base of Ulsan alone reached 8 trillion won out of a total of 14 trillion won in the southeastern industrial city last year, he added, "I do not know what motives are behind the government's pressure. I guess that they think our failure might assure them of victory at the polls."

For comparison, the industrial output in Seoul amounted to 18 trillion won and in the second largest city of Pusan 8 trillion won, according to him. The UNP has no regional stronghold but is concentrating its campaigning in Chong's home province of Kangwon-to, Seoul, and Ulsan and its vicinities.

The Office of National Tax Administration is conducting another large-scale scrutiny of stock transactions among Hyundai management on suspicion the proceeds from the trading might have been funneled into the formation and activities of the UNP.

It levied 134.1 billion won in penalty taxes on Chong, his relatives and Hunndai subsidiaries over in-house stock trading late last year, a measure which Chong regarded as political revenge against the group which has not bowed to power. Chong challenged the penalty tax amount and announced his intention to jump into politics last month.

UNP chairman Chong declared that he had not used even one penny offered by Hyundai and that the money he is using for his political party has been raised by himself through the sales of his stocks worth over 130 billion won.

Asked to respond to North Korean President Kim Il-song's comment in his meeting with South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik in Pyongyang Thursday that it would not be easy for Chong to be a success in politics as he was in business.

He said, "President Kim can say what he wants apparently in his line of duty. He may like to talk about others. I am very excited about my 'new venture.'" Chong was the first South Korean businessman allowed to visit North Korea in 1989.

In a rally in the Samchonpo-Sachon district in Kyongsangnam-to, ruling party chairman Pak Tae-chun accused the UNP of casting a shadow on the movement to keep parliamentary campaigning clean and fair.

"If a business group invests money in research and development and welfare benefits for its employees, not spending it in the political arena, it would put vigor back into the economy and tamp out disputes with labor."

* Top Military Changes for 'Post-No Connection'

922C0046 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean No 1176, 10 Nov 91 pp 22-24

[Article by Kim Chang-su: "The Largest-Scale Military Change During the Sixth Republic—Interests in Establishing Post-No Connection"]

[Text] A "major move of stars" is expected. It is because the official term of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), Chong Ho-kun, who has the highest rank among the entire military of Army, Navy, and Air Force, is drawing to a close. Besides, many other three and four star generals whose terms are over by the end of this year should also be replaced.

Furthermore, the replacement of corps and division commanders and the annual promotion of generals are also expected to occur toward the end of the year, which will create a heat wave of personnel changes.

There are several reasons why the reshuffle of high-ranking military officers this time draws special attention both from within and outside of the military circle. First of all, it is the largest scale reshuffle to be made by No Tae-u's Sixth Republic.

Secondly, depending on who will be succeeding the highest ranking JCS chairman and the Army chief of the general staff, a new military line may be established.

Thirdly, this reshuffle is the last one to be made by President No during his presidency. The new military personnel law that was revised in 1989 adopted a two-year tenure system for major high-ranking military officers. Accordingly, the terms of newly promoted generals at the end of this year will last until the end of 1993.

This is the last and the largest military personnel change that President No will carry out. Because of this, some analysts consider it to be a change for the post-No connection.

In any case, the utmost interest is in who will be at the helm of the JCS chairmanship, that has the supreme military power.

The original term of the current JCS Chairman Chong Ho-kun, who succeeded Choi Se-chang in April 1989, while Chong was the 1st Army commander ended last April. Under a new system of joint military chiefs, Chong's term has been extended to the end of this year.

According to the current military personnel law, "The JCS chairman will be nominated by the president, following the approval of cabinet members. The candidates are recommended by the defense minister from among current or former military chiefs of the general staff or cabinet-level generals."

Possible candidates are, therefore, eight four-star generals: three incumbent Army, Navy, and Air Force chiefs of the general staff, the 1st, 2d, and 3d Army commanders, deputy chairman of the JCS, and the deputy commander of the joint ROK-U.S. force.

The possibility of Navy or Air Force chiefs of the general staff being nominated to the position of the chairman of JCS is very slim because both of them assumed their positions not long ago and because the tradition is that Army generals are nominated to the position. Furthermore, because of the tradition of military personnel changes placing the highest priority on seniority, it is anticipated that the current Army Chief of the General Staff Yi Chin-sam, ROK military academy class of 15, will most likely be nominated.

Although Yi Chin-sam succeeded Yi Chong-ku, current defense minister, in June 1990, and thus has some time left to finish his term, it seems almost certain that he will be nominated. During his tenure as army chief, Yi is known to have been putting his efforts in the following areas: adopting a three-stage evaluation system to ensure objectivity and fairness in promoting generals, improving the quality of military supply, food, and welfare, and enhancing combat power.

Although there may be unexpected results from the defense minister's recommendation or the president's evaluation of the candidates, it is anticipated that such a surprise will not occur to Yi judging from President No's high degree of confidence and the military tradition.

There is an unlikely rumor that Yi might be ruled out from the defense minister's recommendation because of alledged discord with him. In the event that Yi Chin-sam becomes chairman of the JCS, who will replace him as the Army chief? Judging from the Army tradition, there are three candidates: 1st Army Commander Yi Mun-sok, ROK military academy class of 17, 2d Army Commander Yi Pil-sop, ROK military academy class of 16, and 3d Army Commander Shin Mal-op, ROK military academy class of 16.

The terms of the 2d and 3d Army commanders will end at the end of this year. The competition will therefore be between the military academy classmates Yi and Shin, or another Yi, who is a first year junior at the academy. In the event that Yi Mun-sok is nominated, many incumbent high-ranking officers of the ROK military academy class of 16 will have to retire. Therefore, the possibility of Yi Mun-sok being nominated is very slim, according to Army insiders. Furthermore, if a member of the class of 17 will become the Army chief, the class of 18 members will assume the Army commanders' positions, which may result in shaking up the Army stability due to a vast range of changes.

Yi Pil-sop, who is from Tangjin, Chungnam Province, is considered to be a "No Tae-u man," because Yi was the 29th regimental commander under No Tae-u, who was the 9th division commander during the incident of 12 December 198? [a military coup through which Chon Tu-hwan took power]. Shin Mal-op was an Army corps commander before he was promoted to deputy corps commander before he was promoted to deputy chief of the Army general staff in May 1989. He was then promoted to 3d Army commander in nine months.

It is known that general Yi Pil-sop is considered to be a more favored candidate within the Army.

Whoever becomes the Army chief, it is anticipated that the positions of the 2d and 3d Army commanders will be filled by members of the ROK military academy class of 17, which is the same class as the 1st Army commander. Although Deputy Commander of the Joint ROK-U.S. Forces Kim Chin-yong, who is a classmate of Yi Mun-sok, is a four-star general, he is expected to be nominated to an important position in the Joint ROK-U.S. Forces when the right of command is transferred to the ROK force.

It is therefore anticipated that the positions of Army commanders will be filled by current three-star generals of the ROK military academy class of 17, with promotions to four-star generals. Among these are Deputy Army Chief Kim Yon-kak, Principal of the ROK Military Academy Yim In-cho, Defense Minister Policy Director Kim Tong-jin, and Commanding Officer of 7235 Army Unit Yun Hak-yol. Among the four, Kim Yon-kak and Yim In-cho are considered to be favored candidates.

The possibility of a member of the military academy class of 17 being nominated to one of the positions has not been completely ruled out, according to military sources.

This implies that there is a possibility that members of the class of 17, who are already three-star generals with an official term of four years, might be nominated in the sense of opening the door to them. The front runners of the class of 17 are Commander of the Defense Security Command Ku Chang-hwe, and Education Commander Cho Nam-pung, both of whom were promoted in April 1989, and Corps Commanders Kim Che-chang and Kim Chong-hon.

The corps commanders are mostly from the ROK military academy class of 18 and 19 and the ROTC, but the class of 18 outnumbers the others.

Because of the major high-ranking Army personnel reshuffle, at least 30 three-star generals and above will change their positions by the end of the year.

Furthermore, although not specified in the military personnel law, many high-ranking generals, whose terms are traditionally two years, will end their terms by the end of the year. Among them are Army Information Headquarters Chief Yong Yong-il, Military Academy Principal Yim In-cho, Commanding Officer of 7235 Army Unit Yun Hak-yol, Information Commander Pae Tae-ung, Corps Commanders Kim Che-chang and Kim Chong-hon, and Special Combat Commander So Wan-su. Thus, promotion, transfer, and retirement will follow.

Another interesting aspect is whether or not the commanding officers of the major Army organizations protecting the capital will be replaced. Among them are Special Combat Commander So Wan-su whose term expires at the end of the year, Army Capital Garrison Commander Kim Chin-son, and Defense Security Commander Ku Chang-hwe.

Commander So is known to be transferred. It is not clear, however, whether Commanders Ku and Kim, who were nominated to their current positions in October 1990, will be transferred or not. It is predicted that these two will remain until the end of their terms.

One variable is the future of Yi Hyon-u, presidential security chief who is also a graduate of the military academy class of 17. Yi is known to be interested in running for the 14th National Assembly. If he is relieved from the presidential security chief position, who will replace him is an interesting question.

In order to finish these changes by the end of the year, the positions of the JCS commander and Army chief, that require cabinet approval, should be filled by mid-December at the latest, which will allow a reasonable time for other reshuffles.

Watergate hero Bob Woodward of THE WASHINGTON POST, in his recently published book, *The Commanders*, described in detail the selection and approval procedure by Congress of Defense Secretary Cheney and Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staffs Powell and the nomination procedure of other major U.S. military commanders. Woodward also noted the agonies and opinions of military commanders, and the serious effect of their decisions on the nation by describing the decision-making process and meetings for discussing major military operations.

The selection of the core of military corps should be made by a strict and objective process, and not merely a simple "move of the stars".

* Universities To Be Involved in Defense Research

*922C0084 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
6 Dec 91 p 14*

[Article by reporter Sin Yon-suk: "Defense Ministry Disclosed Two-Stage Defense-Related Basic Research Plan"]

[Text] The utilization of universities, which have more than 80 percent of the manpower in the fields of advanced science and technology, is becoming an urgent national issue in mobilizing science and technological resources. Amid such an environment, the Defense Ministry's announcement of a long-term research plan for basic science and technology in the defense area utilizing university resources is drawing attention.

At the first workshop on the long-term, defense-related basic research held in the Sanhak [Industries-Academia] Hall of the Agency for Defense Development (ADD) on 5 December, Son Un-taik, head of the ADD's planning and coordination department, in his special lecture said, "To establish a basis for the independent development of an advanced high-precision weapons system by the year 2000, high-tech research in basic science and technology that utilizes all available resources from industries, academia, and other research organizations is essential." Son disclosed a two-stage defense-related basic research plan, the main theme of which is establishing "research centers for core defense technology" within universities.

According to this plan, the first stage includes establishing a basis for defense-related basic science and technology by 1993, and training manpower with advanced and specialized skills, by disclosing research topics to the industries, academia, and other research organizations. The second stage, which begins in 1994, includes establishing research centers for core defense technology within the universities and an attempt to focus on specific areas of research interests, while partially utilizing research results. The plan also promotes joint international research as part of the second stage.

The new policy promotes the development of core technology and parts, rather than a system integration approach which has been the existing policy. The basic research subjects will be derived from major items that are heavily dependent on foreign nations. The major items include brain-intensive software technology development, strategic parts and items that are export-restricted by foreign governments, items for barter among advanced high-precision parts, and items from equipment that is currently being deployed. In the first stage, the 15 core technologies that the ADD selected will initially be supported. In the second stage, four to five areas selected from the 15 core technologies of the first stage will be strongly supported.

The 15 core technological areas that the ADD selected are as follows: automation, laser, high-sensitivity radar, sensors, simulations, ultra-small integrated electronic circuits, advanced propulsion technology, CBR (chemical, biological, and radiological) warfare, optimum design, new materials, remote sensing, special powder, signal reduction, fiber optics, and military integrated information and communications system.

The research centers for core defense technologies will be established based on existing research groups of academically well-known universities, that are selected through open competition. Once they are selected, a long-term, concentrated support will be provided to make them play major roles in training advanced manpower.

The worldwide arms reduction policy in the post-cold war era forces the world defense system to change from quantity military manpower to high-tech equipment and weapons development. Consequently, the portion of research and development of the overall defense budget is increasing. Furthermore, since modern military technology can be immediately transformed into industrial technology that can be used for producing industrial goods, the competition for technological development among nations is getting keener everyday.

The ADD's basic research project is considered to be a significant change in policy that has taken the changing world order into consideration. It is therefore expected that the project will make a significant contribution to the revitalization of university research activities and provide a new opportunity to settle an atmosphere of joint research among the industries, universities, and other research organizations. In response to the call for proposals in 1990, the universities sent in 206 research proposals in eight areas; including physics, optics, electrical, and electronics engineering; and 50 proposals were selected and funded. In response to the 1992-93 call for proposals, 117 proposals were received and 55 of them were selected. This proved the high-degree of participation by the universities in the area of defense-related basic research.

* EC Considered for Defense Technology Import

922C0067 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
20 Nov 91 p 9

[Article by reporter Kim Chae-hong: "Defense Industrial Technology Transfer From the United States is Very Difficult"]

[Text] At the two day conference on the ROK-U.S. defense industry held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Seoul starting 18 November, Korea strongly requested that the United States allow high-tech technology transfer and increase the limit on the "conditional offset purchase" of defense and military supplies. This is a reflection of an uneasy feeling in the relationship in the defense industry cooperation between the two nations.

The Korean Defense Ministry complains that the United States is strictly controlling high-tech technology transfer with excuses drawn from its administration, congress, and defense industries. The conditions that the United States imposes when transferring high-tech technology to foreign countries are as follows: to prohibit leakage of technology communist countries, to protect intellectual properties, and the payment of loyalty for using the technology.

The barrier that Korea has been facing during the process of importing defense technologies from the

United States since the mid 1980's was not these conditions, however, according to those involved in the technology import.

It is a known fact that the United States' high-tech technology is directly related to its political and diplomatic influences. The early warning planes and spy satellites are examples. The prohibition of technology leaks to communist nations was naturally accepted, since technology superiority implies superiority in combat power.

Under the current ROK-U.S. joint defense system, it is hard to understand the control of defense high-tech technology transfer to Korea in terms of the prohibition to communist countries and of maintaining political and diplomatic influence.

Officials of the Defense Ministry and Defense Industries Promotion Association pointed out that the real reason why the United States is unwilling to transfer defense technologies is that it is considering Korea as a competitor in the defense market. It is the same reason why the United States, which supported the promotion of the Korean defense industry during the 1970's and early 1980's, is no longer making progress in technology transfer to Korea, the officials said.

Choi Kyong-jun, head of the acquisition development department of the defense ministry, hit the main point through the keynote address at the conference on 18 November by saying, "The United States has conflicting views on defense industries in Korea: One is that the reinforcement of the capability of the Korean defense industry ultimately coincides with U.S. interests by sharing the defense burden; and the other is that the defense industry technology transfer may result in raising a potential competitor in the international defense market."

Korean officials in defense industries are concerned that if the United States controls defense cooperation such as the defense technology transfer in the same way it does trade issues involving rice and beef, the relationship between the two nations in reciprocal defense cooperation should be reevaluated.

Korea thinks it has fulfilled its duties as a reciprocal defense partner by sending troops to the Vietnam war in the 1960's, by sending troops and sharing the war expense during the Persian Gulf war, and by sharing the expense for U.S. troops stationed in Korea. In this context, it is difficult to excuse the United States' reluctance in defense technology transfer proportionate to the sales of defense supplies.

Recent notice from the United States prohibiting exports and the cancellation of sales of several high-tech defense equipment for which sales contracts had already been completed irritated Korean defense officials.

The Korean Government is making it clear that since the United States is stringent in exporting high-tech defense equipment and defense technology transfer, it will develop a new cooperation system with European nations such as France and Italy, that are relatively generous in the defense technology transfer.

Defense Ministry officials also point out that the reason for increasing the import of military supplies from the United States every year but substantially decreasing exports each year is that the United States has limited the conditional offset purchases to 30 percent.

Defense Ministry officials said that they will try to gradually improve the friction between the two nations in the defense industry and military supplies by developing a memorandum of understanding on quality assurance by respective governments for military supplies and by consulting and realizing an agreement on mutual provision of military supplies. The officials urged U.S. cooperation.

What has become clearer is that the defense market has shrunk substantially due to the worldwide trend for arms reduction. Therefore, considering the solemn reality that only energy efficient high-tech weapons suitable for maintaining defensive forces can be exported, we should put more effort on aggressive import as well as in the development of defense technology.

Burma

Further Reportage on Lao Delegation Visit

Lao Minister Comments on Relations

BK2502142192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] In his speech at a banquet held in honor of the Lao Government delegation by His Excellency [H.E.] General Saw Maung, prime minister of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], in Rangoon on the evening of 24 February, H.E. Prime Minister General Khamtai Siphandon expressed satisfaction over the fact that the friendly relations and cooperation between Laos and Burma have explicitly developed in a positive manner. H.E. Prime Minister Gen. Khamtai Siphandon said: Laos and Burma are two neighboring countries. The peoples of the two countries have closely maintained spiritual attachment since ancient times. Our two countries have maintained similar religious and cultural traditions which we have all along continued to preserve. Our two countries shared the same destiny under the dominating yoke of the colonialists and resolutely carried out the cause of struggle for national independence.

H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon expressed his pleasure at seeing that the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries—Laos and Burma—have been increasingly developed on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; noninterference in each other's internal affairs; avoidance of use of force or threat to use force; searching for peaceful solutions to all problems in bilateral relations; and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

His excellency the Lao prime minister commended the many efforts of the Burmese Government toward developing the country, improving the welfare of the people, and enhancing social stability based on the specific conditions of the country. The head of the Lao Government delegation noted: Over recent years, the international and regional situation has profoundly and complicatedly changed. Various nations, being concerned about the said situation, have expressed the hope that various countries will strengthen cooperation on the basis of equality and justice for peace and development. H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon once again reiterated the foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship, and cooperation as persistently pursued by the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. He noted that the LPDR will positively take part in the common cause of various nations in the world.

Further reports from Rangoon said that on 25 February, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and the Lao Government delegation called on H.E. Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]. Later, the Lao Government delegation headed by H.E. Prime Minister Gen. Khamtai Siphandon and a government delegation of the Union of Myanmar headed by H.E. Gen. Saw Maung, SLORC chairman and prime minister of the Union of Myanmar, held official talks. In the talks, H.E. Gen. Khamtai Siphandon and Gen. Saw Maung informed each other of the situation in their respective countries. They also exchanged views on the world and regional situation.

Foreign Ministers Exchange Views

BK2502152892 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The Laotian delegation led by Mr. Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the Burmese delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw held discussions and exchanged views on international, regional, and bilateral matters at the Foreign Ministry's annex building at 1600 on 25 February 1992.

On the Burmese side, present together with Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw were U Maung Maung Kyaw, director general of trade; U Soe Tint, director general of the Prime Minister's Office; Dr. Myint Thein, director general of Agriculture and Forests Ministry; U Ba Thwin, director general of the International Organizations and Economics Department; U Thein Aung Lin, acting director general of the Planning and Finance Ministry; Maung Toe, deputy police director general; and U Maung Maung Lay, Burmese ambassador to Laos.

Present at the discussions together with Mr. Phoun Sipaseut were Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Souban Salitthilat; Mr. Sian Saphangthong, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry; Mr. Kideng Thammavong, Laotian ambassador to Myanmar [Burma]; and other responsible officials.

Karen Guerrillas Force Army Troops To Retreat

BK2602010592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Mae Sot—Burmese troops, short of supplies and facing tough resistance from Karen guerrillas, have fled over the mountains after being poised to attack the rebel ethnic group's headquarters, a Thai Army source said yesterday.

The source said in a telephone interview that he had learned of the retreat by monitoring Burmese Army radio.

He said Burmese troops retreated from the occupied hills of Thiphavicho and Maepha over the weekend.

Thiphavicho and Maepha are six to nine miles (10 to 15 km) from Karen headquarters in the town of Manerplaw near the border with Thailand.

"The sound of gunfire has died down in the past few day since the Burmese have retreated from the eastern side of the mountain range," he said.

He said that early this month more than 140 Burmese soldiers were surrounded for more than two weeks by Karen guerrillas and were cut off from other units. More than 80 were killed and 20 surrendered.

A senior Karen official confirmed the reported retreat and said his fighters were growing more confident they would be able to hold their headquarters.

Dissident Muslims: Rangoon Wants Bangladesh War

BK2402033692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0331 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By Nadeen Qadir]

[Text] Dhechua Palang Camp 2, Bangladesh, Feb 24 (AFP)—Burma is preparing for war with Bangladesh, dissident Burmese Moslem leaders have alleged, pointing to a build-up of Burmese forces along the border.

"Burma is ready for war, which could break out very soon, maybe in a month or two," Zafr Ahmed, a leader of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), told AFP at this hillside camp near the frontier.

Ahmed said the Burmese troop build-up along the border was continuing, and that he saw no other reason except war for such a big mobilisation.

His view was shared by the RSO's secretary general Syedur Rahman, who said in Cox's Bazar that Burma wants war to divert attention from its domestic troubles and from popular detained dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Refugees who had been held in Burmese labor camps said most of the sacks or crates they had been forced to carry before escaping or being released contained weapons and food.

"Burmese troops are stocking food that can last for months," alleged Abul Hossain, 30, who said he had fled a camp some two months ago as the guards slept.

The Bangladesh Government has played down the prospect of hostilities.

Last Wednesday [19 February] Bangladeshi Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, meeting reporters in Dhaka, dismissed the possibility of war.

He said diplomatic efforts were on the stem the influx of Rohingya refugees and ensure their repatriation. [sentence as received]

Burmese Moslems, known as Rohingyas, have been fleeing to Bangladesh from Burma's western province of Arakan by the thousands.

The refugees—who Dhaka says number 50,000—have told of widespread atrocities committed by Burmese troops in Arakan. Rangoon dismisses their allegations, saying the troops are targeting local insurgents only.

Bangladeshi forces went on heightened alert in December after an isolated raid by Burmese troops on a frontier post. Burma initially denied the incident, but later returned arms its troops had seized.

A Bangladeshi defence source in this area said the situation was "getting worse every day," but he did not speculate whether Rangoon was contemplating an armed conflict with its Moslem neighbor.

The source said a "composite brigade"—made up of infantry, artillery, signal and engineering units—had been deployed on the border for what he called defensive purposes.

"None of us are sitting idle these days," added an officer at a local military base, who requested anonymity.

Military vehicles have been on the move in recent days in Cox's Bazar and the border town of Teknaf, their number plates covered with mud. Troops were seen in hill areas and local people say two new army camps have been set up.

A Dhaka newspaper, the New Nation, said last week that Burmese military strength had grown to 85,000 men in Arakan, and that 105-mm guns had been set up in two border towns. It gave no source for its report.

Ahmed, who also heads the RSO-backed ARAKAN NEWS AGENCY, said 50,000 Rohingyas inside Burma were trained and ready to fight Burmese troops deployed in Arakan.

More are being trained at camps deep inside the Burmese jungle, he said.

"Our mujahidins are aged between 15-17 years and are trained in arms including AK-47 assault rifles and mortars," he said.

Ahmed, a teacher who arrived in Bangladesh in late 1991 along with 300 of his students, said Ezhar Miah, chief of an insurgent force known as the Mujahidin Army, had visited refugee camps in Bangladesh several times to assure Rohingyas that they would "win back their homeland."

Ahmed gave no other details on the visits, but described Miah as a former Burmese MP [member of parliament] from Arakan.

Asked where the Rohingyas got their money and weapons, Ahmed said: "We buy weapons in black market from money sent by Rohingyas employed abroad, especially in the Middle East."

He said about 100,000 Rohingyas live abroad, mostly in Gulf states.

Rohingyas would die for their native soil and help defend Bangladesh if Burma attacked, Ahmed said, a view that was echoed by Rohingyas young and old in this camp.

"Yes, I will fight. I cannot go home to be tortured and to see our women raped," said Abu Siddik, an 18-year-old college student.

Ahmed declined to speak of a Rohingya "homeland." But others here said their dream was to have independence for Arakan, currently the only province in predominantly Buddhist Burma where Moslems are in the majority.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malay Group Holds Constitutional Talks With King

BK2402125792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1233 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By Mervin Nambiar]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 24 (AFP)—Senior officials of Malaysia's largest ethnic Malay political party held talks Monday [24 February] with King Sultan Azlan Shah, regarding allegations that the country's hereditary rulers were abusing their powers.

"We gave the King a memorandum touching on political, economic and other matters affecting the rulers and the country's administration," said Mohamed Rahmat, secretary-general of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO).

The UMNO delegation included most members of the party's powerful Supreme Council, excluding party president Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Ghafar Baba.

UMNO sources said the delegation had discussed claims—widely aired by the local press—that Malaysia's nine hereditary rulers were interfering in politics and grabbing business opportunities meant for commoners.

"We cited specific examples where things went wrong," a member of the delegation said, referring to instances when the hereditary rulers allegedly breached their roles as constitutional heads of states.

The sultans and rajas head nine of Malaysia's 13 states and elect a king, or paramount ruler, once every five years.

Despite their considerable influence, the rulers' conduct has come under intense public scrutiny since 1983 when Mahathir moved constitutional amendments to deny them the right to veto legislation.

Mohamed, who is also information minister, said the UMNO supreme council delegation would hold an expanded meeting with all nine rulers here on Tuesday [25 February].

UMNO, with some 1.8 million members, dominates the ruling multi-racial National Front coalition of 12 parties which, with its forerunner the Alliance, has ruled Malaysia since independence in 1957.

Mohamed described the 90-minute meeting with Sultan Azlan as "very nice, very warm," adding that the king fully understood the concept of the division of power.

"The king understands the meaning of the Constitution and the rights of the sultans under the Constitution because he has been a Lord President (of the Supreme Court)," he said.

Mohamed said the delegation, led by Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim, had stressed that the public airing of grievances against the ruling houses was not orchestrated by the UMNO.

"The public has expressed an opinion and we would be failing in our duty if we don't raise their views," he said.

Mohamed said the UMNO Supreme Council had taken the initiative to open a dialogue with the rulers in a bid to strengthen the monarchy and end the public debate on its role.

"This is a very big step towards maintaining good relations between the party in power and the rulers and safeguarding and protecting the institution of the monarchy," he said.

Sources close to the ruling houses said Sultan Azlan and the other hereditary rulers had met in December to discuss the allegations, followed up by a meeting with Mahathir in mid-January.

They said Mahathir had reassured them he was not an anti-royalist and that the constitutional monarchy would be preserved.

UMNO sources said that while the Supreme Council had discussed possible amendments to the Constitution to further clarify the powers of the rulers, no decision had yet been made on whether to present the amendments to parliament.

Emergence of Major Oil Producers Predicted

BK2402080892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0416 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Brunei Darussalam will become major players in the Asia-Pacific oil market by the turn of the century.

The existing major players in the region, China and Indonesia, which now account for about two-thirds of the Far East production will become net importers.

By the turn of the century, production in Vietnam and Myanmar [Burma] is forecast to increase significantly, according to Dr. Fereidun Fesharaki, director of resources programmes in the East-West Centre in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The major oil producers in the region now are China, which produced 138.6 million tonnes last year; Indonesia (78.9 million tonnes); Malaysia (30.9 million tonnes); Brunei (7.33 million tonnes); Australia (25.3 million tonnes); India (32.7 million tonnes), and Vietnam (3.9 million tonnes).

Dr. Fesharaki in an interview with the financial newspaper BUSINESS TIMES last week said that demand for oil is growing at 2 to 3 percent a year because Malaysia has abundant supplies of natural gas.

By the year 2000, domestic consumption of oil is estimated at 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) against 200,000 bpd currently.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of Opec, will not be a net oil exporter by 1995 as its economy is taking off and consumption of oil is increasing. In 1991, demand grew by 10 percent despite the government raising the prices by 20 per cent.

Similarly, China will also reduce exports by 1995 due to increasing domestic demand. It is expected to resort to huge imports by the turn of the century.

Exports of low-sulphur waxy crudes will decline significantly in the next few years, he said. Among Asia-Pacific crude types, light sweet crudes, like Malaysia's Tapis, will be harder to find than heavy sweet crudes.

Malaysian crude, which is light and has a low sulphur content, will therefore be in greater demand and can be expected to fetch an extra U.S.$1 or U.S.$2 above crudes from other countries after 1995.

"By then there will not be many such quality oils in the world," he said, adding that by the year 2000, Tapis will be the only quality oil left in the region and only in limited amounts.

Rising demand in oil producing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Dr. Ferashaki, will result in declining export availability and a major increase in dependence on imports.

By 1995, available exports are projected to fall from 2.2 million bpd to 1.5 million bpd and to only 673,000 bpd by the year 2000.

Import dependence will rise to 58 percent in 1995 from 48 percent in 1990 and to 64 percent by the year 2000.

Dr. Ferashaki is also the president-elect of the International Association of Energy Economics, a key professional organisation representing over 3,000 energy economists in more than 70 countries.

Army Sets Up Jungle Warfare Training School

BK2502103292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Ipoh, Feb 25 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The army has set up a special school in the jungle warfare training centre in the southern peninsular state of Johore to retain its expertise in guerrilla warfare and counterinsurgency, Deputy Army Chief Lt. Gen. [Lieutenant General] Othman Harun said Tuesday [25 February].

The school has a core of key army personnel from the rank of corporal upwards who were well-versed in anti-guerrilla operations as well as counterinsurgency, he added.

The Malaysian Army was regarded as one of the best in guerrilla warfare and counterinsurgency in the region, he told reporters here.

He said it was imperative for the army to retain its expertise in counterinsurgency acquired over the years as it had not yet been confirmed that the communist terrorist threat no longer existed.

Singapore

Minister Warns Against U.S. Military Pullout

BK2602145192 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] The first minister of defense, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, has pointed to four ways with which ASEAN will respond to the end of the cold war. Opening the first Asia-Pacific defense conference in Singapore, he said the group will continue to invest in defense to ensure peace and stability in the region. It will encourage greater bilateral relations and joint exercises, and inititate regional talks and exchange views on security. And lastly, it will help the United States to remain in the region.

Dr. Yeo said a sharp U.S. pullout militarily from the Asia-Pacific may compel Japan to rearm. This in turn could prompt the Chinese and Koreans to rearm. This will cause a chain reaction of destabilization in the region.

He said Singapore is already playing its part by offering the use of its facilities to the United States. Other ASEAN countries have also offered maintenance and repair facilities for U.S. warships and aircraft. [words indistinct], Dr. Yeo said, signal ASEAN's desire to see the U.S. stay in the region. Other regional powers are also welcome to engage in constructive economic and political cooperation.

Dr. Yeo said an enhanced responsibility for regional security and growing economic power have made the Asia-Pacific region a major market for defense-related hardware and [word indistinct]. He added that Southeast Asian countries are also keen to develop their own defense industries. The Asia-Pacific defense conference is being organized in conjunction with the Asian Aerospace 92.

Cambodia

German Minister Schaefer Arrives 24 February

BK2402122592 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1118 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 24—Helmut Schaefer, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, flew in here today for a four-day official visit to Cambodia.

Schaefer in accompaniment of five other German diplomats is the first high-ranking official of Germany to visit Cambodia since the signing of the Paris peace treaty last October.

[Passage indistinct] Schaefer plans to meet Prince Norodom Siahnouk [words indistinct] and top officials of the State of Cambodia.

Germany sent a group of six health workers to Cambodia joining the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC). Nine more health workers would be sent here to join the mission.

Welcomed by Sihanouk

BK2502104792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 24 February, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], received His Excellency [H.E.] Helmut Schaefer, German state minister for foreign affairs, at Khemarin Palace.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed his great happiness at the presence of the German Foreign Ministry's delegation and said the delegation's visit certainly contributes to the success of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia because this visit coincides with a time when [words indistinct] the success of the implementation of the agreement and moving toward free general elections in early 1993.

H.E. Helmut Schaefer praised the national reconciliation mission of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk aimed at bringing peace, security, and national unity. H.E. the German state minister for foreign affairs affirmed his unreserved support for the national reconciliation process in Cambodia at a time when the international trend demands the establishment of a zone of peace, well-being, and social progress.

Holds Cordial Talks With Hor Namhong

BK2602050392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 24 February at the Foreign Ministry, His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, had a cordial talk with H.E. Helmut Schaefer, German state minister for foreign affairs who is on a visit to Cambodia.

H.E. Hor Namhong warmly welcomed H.E. Helmut Schaefer's visit [words indistinct] Paris peace agreement. He stressed that this visit greatly encouraged the Cambodian people. He also expressed profound thanks to the German Government and people for their contribution to the peace process in Cambodia and for sending their permanent representative to Cambodia.

H.E. Hor Namhong added that the presence of the German diplomatic mission in Cambodia facilitated the ties of the two countries. He also informed the guest of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement which is facing a number of difficulties, such as the dispatch of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] forces to Cambodia, demobilization of the Armed Forces, and the repatriation of refugees which must be completed before the coming rainy season.

H.E. Hor Namhong also requested the German side to help (?rebuild) Cambodia in various important fields, including communication [words indistinct].

In his reply, H.E. Helmut Schaefer expressed his delight for the opportunity to pay his first visit to Cambodia. He said that Germany was considering the possibilities for cooperation with Cambodia. He stressed that his visit to Cambodia was to seek facts regarding Cambodia, the implementation of the Paris peace agreement, and the role that Germany should play in the future.

H.E. Helmut Schaefer said that Germany (?will give) financial contribution to the peace process in Cambodia and some other budgets [words indistinct] repatriation of the Cambodian refugees.

Views Peace Accord With Hun Sen

BK2602050192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 24 February at Pochentong Airport, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s Council of Ministers and member of the Supreme National Council, held talks with H.E. Helmut Schaefer, German state minister for foreign affairs who is on a visit to Cambodia.

They discussed the implementation of the Paris peace agreement which was sincerely implemented by all Cambodian parties.

H.E. Hun Sen expressed his joy and warm welcome to the German Foreign Ministry delegation's visit to Cambodia. He informed the guests of some difficulties concerning the implementation of the peace agreement, such as the delay of the deployment of [words indistinct] and UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], the 70-percent demobilization of troops, and repatriation of Cambodian refugees before the coming rainy season.

H.E. Hun Sen stressed that peace could not last without socioeconomic development in the nation. He also requested the German Government to help Cambodia in four significant and most urgently needed fields, namely agriculture, electricity, communications, and training.

In his reply, H.E. Helmut Schaefer thanked the host for the hospitality given him during his visit. He stressed that the past catastrophe could not return to Cambodia.

The German foreign minister said that he would raise H.E. Hun Sen's request for discussion upon his return home. He promised to contribute to the UNTAC's mission in Cambodia and to discuss additional aid to Cambodia.

UNDP Delegation Holds Talks With Officials

Meets Sihanouk

BK2502120792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] At 1700 on 21 February at the Khemarin Palace, the delegation from the UN Development Program [UNDP] led by His Excellency [H.E.] K.G. Singh, chief of the UNDP for Asia, accompanied by H.E. Edouard A. Watter, head of the UNDP in Cambodia [words indistinct], paid a courtesy call and held talks with His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC].

H.E. Singh profoundly thanked HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk for granting him the audience. H.E. Singh pointed out that the purpose of the UNDP aid project for the Cambodian-Soviet friendship institute is to enable the institute to function normally again.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk said: On behalf of the SNC, the Cambodian people, and in my own name, I would like to express profound thanks to the UNDP, which has constantly paid attention to providing assistance to the Cambodian people in the cause of building and developing the Cambodian motherland and making it prosperous and glorious.

Views Peace Accord With Say Chhum

BK2502060292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0506 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 25—Deputy Prime Minister Say Chhum received here Saturday Krishan Singh, administrative advisor and chief of Pacific region of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) based in New York.

Say Chhum briefed his guest of the implementation of the peace treaty signed in Paris last October despite there were subsequent cease-fire violations by other side. He also expressed his profound thanks to UNDP for its assistance to Cambodia in the past years.

For his part Krishan Singh praised the all-sided achievements recorded by the Cambodians under the clear-sighted leadership of the Cambodia's People Party and government and the application of the peace treaty in Cambodia.

He proposed the Cambodian side to study what Cambodia needs be that the UNDP would provide through the SNC [as received].

Increasing Efforts Urged

BK2602064392 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0449 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 26—A press release on the UNDP's [UN Development Program] assistance to Cambodia's rehabiliation programme was released at the end of a press conference held at the UNDP's office in Phnom Penh Saturday evening.

The press conference was jointly held by Mr. K.G. Singh, UNDP chief of Asia and Pacific; Mr. Edouard A. Watter, UNDP resident representative to Cambodia and Mr. Wyn Prattley, leader of an 18-member interagency rural integration mission on a current visit to Cambodia to assess the needs for the reintegration of war-affected people.

The press release reads as follows:

"In a press conference at the office of the United Nations Development Programme today, Mr. K.G. Singh, UNDP assistant administrator and director of the regional bureau for Asia and Pacific, stressed the enormity of the task ahead for the United Nations system and the Cambodian people.

"All efforts, national, multilateral and bilateral, must now enter an accelerated phase," said Mr. Singh, "in a matter of weeks, the returnees will begin to arrive, the soldiers will begin to hand in their guns, and the internally displaced—often overlooked in the past—will have renewed expectations of a speedy return to their homes. Our response will have to be fast, flexible and on a substantial scale, to really make the difference."

The United Nations Development Programme, the leading multilateral and development agrency involved in rehabilitation and longer term reintegration in Cambodia, will work closely with the local authorities, UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], UNICEF, WFP [World Food Programme], other UN agencies, bilateral donors, and NGO's [nongovernment organizations] in developing, implementing and coordinating programmes to address critical needs in this country.

An 18-member mission composed of experts from various United Nations agencies, non-government organisations and bilateral governments, has over the past month travelled throughout Cambodia to identify appropriate strategies for the longer term reintegration of war-affected people. As many questions as answers have been raised in the process as key variables still remain uncertain. The ultimate economic pursuits of the returnees, the speed and effectiveness of the demining programme, the final numbers, profiles and needs of the demobilised soldiers, will all become apparent with time.

The report, to be finalised over the coming weeks, will emphasise, inter alia, the importance of essential infrastructure, potable water supply, food production, health care, education and training, and above all, maximum flexibility and speed in responding to needs as they arise. Support to the administrative structures of key provinces will also be a critical need. Contingency plans also need to be developed to anticipate, for example, possible urban drift by returnees.

Mr. K.G. Singh has been in Phnom Penh for consultations with H.R.H. [His Royal Highness] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Supreme National Council and representatives of various missions and development agencies. He left here Sunday for Tokyo, to hold talks with the Japanese Government on Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction needs."

Australian Defense Minister Pays Working Visit

Views New Developments With Sihanouk

BK2502061092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0503 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 25—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, met here Sunday Gordon Bilney, Australia's junior minister for defense, science and personnel, who is on a visit to Cambodia.

Bilney, who was accompanied by Lieutenant General John Coates, chief of General Staff of the Australian Armed Forces, arrived in Phnom Penh the same day.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk told the Australian guests of the current development in Cambodia and the application of the Paris peace treaty signed late last year.

The prince reiterated his grateful (?thanks) to the Australian Government for its contributions to peace in Cambodia.

Cambodia's peace process was initiated by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans who was being proposed to be awarded the Nobel peace prize.

Departs 26 Feb

BK2602072292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0458 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 26—An Australian delegation led by Gordon Bilney, minister for defense science and personnel left here Wednesday after a four-day visit to Cambodia.

This was the third ministerial level delegation of Australia to visit Cambodia since the peace treaty signed in Paris last October.

Gordon Bilney in accompaniment of Lieutenant General John Coates, chief of General Staff of the Australian Armed Forces, called on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) and met with Defense Minister Tie Banh, and others.

The second Australian delegation led by Gerry Hand, minister of immigration, local government, and Ethnic Affairs also left here last week after having talks with Cambodian side on the fate of Cambodian boat people living in Australia and the repatriation of some 350,000 Khmer refugees from camps in Thailand.

Chea Sim Meets Japanese Diet Delegation 21 Feb

BK2302161792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 21 February at Chamka Mon State Palace, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, granted an audience to a delegation of the Japanese Diet led by H.E. Kazuo Aichi, member of the Liberal Democratic Party and former head of the Environment Agency. He cordially welcomed the delegation and highly valued its visit to Cambodia.

H.E. Chea Sim briefed the guests about the development of the general situation in the country, especially the implementation of the Paris peace accord for which Japan has made a great contribution to a settlement of the Cambodian problem and assisted in the restoration and reconstruction of Cambodia.

In his reply, H.E. Kazuo Aichi profoundly thanked H.E. Chea Sim as well as the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government for having created favorable conditions for him, making his fact-finding mission in Cambodia successful. H.E. Kazuo Aichi also highly valued the outcome of the implementation of the Paris peace accord. Especially, he lauded the SOC side for having sincerely executed the accord with a view to achieving genuine peace in the country. Moreover, he pledged that Japan would continue to promote its cooperation with Cambodia to help restore and rebuild the country's economy, contributing to a speedy implementation of the peace accord in Cambodia.

Chea Sim Receives Indian Special Envoy

BK2602055392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 25 February at the office of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee, National Assembly, and the front's National Council, granted an audience to H.E. Mohan Bandari, special envoy of the Republic of India.

H.E. Chea Sim expressed a warm welcome to H.E. Mohan Bandari and informed him of the developments in the State of Cambodia in the past 13 years.

H.E. Chea Sim also spoke on the implementation of the peace agreement on Cambodia signed in Paris on 23 October 1991, and expressed gratitude to the Republic of India for helping promote peace in Cambodia.

In his reply, H.E. Mohan Bandari expressed profound thanks to H.E. Chea Sim and the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] for accommodating him during his visit to Cambodia. He welcomed the goodwill of the SOC's party and government in implementing the peace agreement. He expressed his confidence that in the near future, the Cambodian people would certainly be reconciled to jointly build the country for the prosperity of their motherland.

More Reportage on Malaysian Minister's Visit

Reiterates Support for SNC

BK2202022292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] On 20 February, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan cordially received in Phnom Penh H.E. Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, foreign minister of Malaysia.

H.E. Khieu Samphan expressed most profound thanks to Malaysia and the Malaysian Government, under the leadership of H.E. Prime Minister Mahathir, for always firmly assisting and supporting the Cambodian people in their effort for national independence. The presence of the Malaysian Foreign Minister here is further evidence that Malaysia assists and supports both the Supreme National Council [SNC] chaired by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, and the Paris agreement.

H.E. Malaysian Foreign Minister said Malaysia continues to assist and support the SNC chaired by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state. Malaysia will strive to contribute, along with the other ASEAN countries, to get the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia dispatched to Cambodia most quickly. We should not wait for the entire force; the first contingent of the force should be urgently dispatched to comfort the Cambodian people. Afterward, the second and third contingents can then be dispatched.

Views UNTAC Arrival With Ranariddh

BK2202121192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Prince Norodom Ranariddh—member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia; secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, and Supreme Commander and Commander in Chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia—who arrived in Phnom Penh at 0840 on 20 February, said the delayed dispatch of a contingent of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to the country would hold up the Cambodian peace process. The prince stated this at a meeting with Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and delegation at his palace in Phnom Penh.

The Malaysian foreign minister told the prince that he expected UNTAC would come to Cambodia very soon after it had sufficient funds for its operation in the country, adding that he was very happy to have seen all the Cambodian parties striving to implement the Paris accord.

The Malaysian foreign minister returned home yesterday [21 February] after completing his three-day official visit to Cambodia. His Excellency Badawi, accompanied by 16 businessmen from various industries, signed two agreements on joint ventures in the aviation and banking sectors.

Sihanouk Visits KPNLF-Controlled Zone 25 Feb

BK2602064992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], arrived yesterday in Banteay Chhma, the zone under the control of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF].

On this trip, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk was welcomed by about 2,000 civilian Cambodians and was greeted by commanders and troops of the KPNLF Army. On this occasion, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk met with His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, chairman of the KPNLF and SNC member, and KPNLF military and civilian officials.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in front of Banteay Chhma temple that his visit to the liberated zone is made with the aim of achieving definitive national reconciliation. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk arrived in Banteay Chhmar area by a helicopter of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia.

Tomorrow HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk will visit the Pailin area which is under the control of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], and on Saturday he plans to visit the area controlled by the National Army of Independent Cambodia led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Trying To End 'Frontiers'

BK2502142792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Banteay Chmar, Cambodia, Feb 25 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, trying to promote national reconciliation in post-war Cambodia, kicked off his unification tour Tuesday with a visit to the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) zone. The prince, who said he was aiming to "wipe out the frontiers between Cambodian zones" on his first-ever visit here, touched down in a United Nations helicopter to greet about 2,000 civilians and inspect several companies of KPNLF forces.

"Your presence embodies the symbol of national reconciliation," KPNLF leader Son Sann said in a speech to the prince and the people.

Rebel General Sak Sutsakhan was also there to greet the prince, despite his known differences with Son Sann and the civilian half of the KPNLF. The area was "liberated" from the Phnom Penh government after the Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia in 1989. U.S. humanitarian aid was poured into the zone during the civil war to oust the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh regime. But diplomats who accompanied the prince said that while the soldiers wore exemplary U.S.-issue uniforms, the village was dirt poor.

"What is there to show for all this American aid?" one diplomat said.

Prince Sihanouk is spending a week in the northwest provincial capital of Battambang and using it as a jumping-off point to visit the zones controlled by the three factions—including his own—that fought to oust Phnom Penh in the nearly 13-year civil war.

He is due to travel to Khmer Rouge headquarters in Pailin on Thursday and to FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the group loyal to him, on Saturday.

The United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) arranged the tour after urging Prince Sihanouk to show his neutrality as head of the U.N.-guided authority, the Supreme National Council (SNC). The SNC represents Cambodia's sovereignty while it is under U.N. supervision through the elections scheduled for April 1993.

"We've been waiting for you to go to all zones as a sign you represent all Cambodian people," UNAMIC chief Ataul Karim said at a dinner in the prince's honor in Battambang. "The message is the peace process is progressing."

UNAMIC allotted one space on the helicopters for a pool reporter.

The prince was accompanied to Battambang by Prime Minister Hun Sen and deputy premier Kom Sam Ol. They had a private schedule on Wednesday.

Sihanouk Receives Catholic Delegation 21 Feb

BK2402111292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] A delegation of the Cambodian Catholic community headed by Mr. (Iramof), governor of the Cambodian Catholic community, called on and had talks with His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, at Khemarin Palace at 1150 on 21 February. On that occasion, Mr. (Iramof) talked about the destruction during the period between 1975 and 1978 [words indistinct]. Mr. (Iramof) deeply thanked the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], the Government of the State of Cambodia, and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense for reviving religion. He went on to say that thanks to the liberalization policy of the CPP since 1990 five churches have been reopened in Phnom Penh and in the provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kompong Thom, and Kompong Cham.

Mr. (Iramof) also wished HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk the best of health and long life so that he can help further promote religion.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed great plasure with and warm welcome to the delegation. He went on to say that he would do his best to help foster religion in Cambodia.

Sihanouk Meets Former Servants; Urges Development

BK2302114392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] At 0900 on 21 February at Khemarin Palace, His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and his consort granted an audience to a group of people who used to serve them. His Excellency [H.E.] Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC] was also present there.

On that occasion, H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk warmly welcomed and thanked his guests for their visit. He also expressed the deepest thanks to the Cambodian People's Party and the SOC Government for their invitation for him to come home, enabling him to again become the harmonious shade for the people and help rebuild the country toward rapid progress as other developed countries in the world. The prince further said: At present, our Cambodia has already regained its full independence. So all of us should unite to build and develop our country toward prosperity and glory as it was in the Sangkum Reas Niyum era.

After those people had presented themselves to the prince, a representative took the floor reaffirming their respect and love for H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his consort, who were separated from them for more than 20 years. He prayed that the triple jewels and all sacred things in the world protect the prince and his wife, so they can have a long life and remain a harmonious shade for the people across the country.

Khieu Samphan Sends Message to Roland Dumas

BK2602015792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Feb 92

["Text" of 17 February message from Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council and chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, to Roland Dumas, French foreign minister and cochairman of Paris International Conference on Cambodia]

[Text] Your Excellency: The danger of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia being diverted into an agreement legitimizing Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia is becoming more apparent. For this reason, I believe that in the name of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], I have the duty to inform your excellency, through this letter, on this serious danger.

The situation concerning the implementation of the agreement is as follows:

1. Despite the close attention paid by the international community and Cambodian national opinion to this issue, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has not yet come to ensure that all foreign forces are withdrawn from Cambodia. It is still not clear when it will arrive.

2. The agreement clearly says that the Supreme National Council [SNC] chaired by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, is the sole source of power in Cambodia. However, the danger is becoming more apparent that the SNC will be pushed into a state in which it exists only in name for legitimizing and concealing Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia.

3. UNTAC's delay in coming to Cambodia has encouraged Vietnam to intensify military activities to attack the Cambodian national resistance forces in the current 14th dry season in violation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

4. UNTAC's delay in disarming the four Cambodian factions also contributes to allowing Vietnamese aggressor forces to use this situation to cover themselves and carry out activities against the Cambodian national resistance forces at will.

5. Along with this, a large amount of aid has been flowing into Cambodia in the form of humanitarian, economic, social, and cultural aid; aid for rehabilitating and restoring Cambodia; and aid for preserving Cambodia's historic temples, and so on.

This aid should be given to the SNC—which the agreement clearly says represents the sole source of power in Cambodia. In conformity with the agreement, this aid should be allocated, administered, and controlled by the SNC. But, in practice, due to the fact that the SNC is in such a situation as mentioned above, the SNC has no rights, power, or means to administer and control the use of this aid.

Therefore, the administration of aid does not conform to the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on Cambodia. In fact, this aid has not reached the suffering Cambodian people. It has not served the aim which has been officially set. On the contrary, a large part of it fell into the hands of the Vietnamese aggressors, who continue to occupy Cambodia and use it for buying food, fuel, and all other supplies for Vietnamese troops to continue attacking the Cambodian national resistance forces.

6. There are forces urgently pushing for the meetings of the SNC, the SNC Secretariat, and the Mixed Military Working Group. These urgent meetings are being called for at a time when UNTAC is not yet here. There are forces pushing for introduction of new legislation, new essence, and new administration successively. Following this successive process for new legislation, new essence, and new administration will in the end lead to a new agreement which is the opposite of the agreement everyone solemnly signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. In sum, more than three months after the signing of the agreement to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia, the main and core points of this agreement not only have not yet been implemented, but the danger has arisen that this agreement will be diverted into one legitimizing Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia.

Taking all this into account, on behalf of the PDK, I appeal to national and international opinion to unite and thwart the danger that the agreement ending Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia will be changed into an agreement legitimizing Vietnam's continued occupation in Cambodia, and also to get all parties, signatories of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on Cambodia, to turn back to abide by the essence and spirit of the agreement.

Along with this, it is necessary to jointly push for the UNTAC to quickly come to Cambodia without further delay to start implementing the agreement, particularly its essence and central points, which includes:

1. Supervision of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia and a guarantee that these forces do not return to Cambodia; and

2. Supervision of the disarming of all four Cambodian parties' Armed Forces.

On this occasion, the PDK would like to reaffirm its position on abiding by the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. As long as UNTAC has not yet arrived to work together with the SNC chaired by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk to settle those two core issues and create a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia, all other issues will remain unsolved.

The solution of other problems apart from these two core issues is akin to partially solving minor problems. This runs counter to the Paris agreement on Cambodia which mandates the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Please, your excellency, accept my highest regards.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 17 February 1992

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, SNC member and PDK chairman

Hun Sen Signs Decree Circulating New Bank Note

BK2402114892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Decree No. 03-aw-nor-kraw of the Council of Ministers on the circulation of new 50-riel bank note dated 21 February—read by announcer]

[Text] By virtue of the Constitution of the State of Cambodia; in view of the law on the organization and function of the Council of Ministers promulgated by Decree No. 03-kraw dated 10 February 1982; in view of Decree-Law No. 42-kaw-chaw dated 31 December 1988 dealing with the change in the function, role, and duty of the National Bank of the Cambodian People [NBCP]; at the proposal of the chairman of the NBCP, the Council of Ministers decides the following:

Article 1. To authorize the issuance, circulation, and use in Cambodia of a new type of 50-riel bank note from 22 February 1992 along with the other types of bank notes already in circulation.

Article 2. The NBCP has the duty of issuing a communique to publicize the pecularities of the new bank note.

Article 3. The Cabinet of the Council of Ministers, the NBCP, the Ministry of Finance, and all ministries, institutions, and people's committees of all provinces and cities are charged with implementing this decree according to their respective duties as from the day it is signed.

Phnom Penh, 21 February 1992

[Signed] For the Council of Ministers, Chairman Hun Sen

Cooperation of Red Cross Organizations Reported

BK2502083792 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0414 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 Feb (SPK)—Cambodian Red Cross trucks transported 40 tonnes of rice to Ampil, a zone controlled by FUNCINPEC (National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia), and another 12 tonnes to the KPNLF (Khmer People's National Liberation Front) zone.

Furthermore, the KPNLF Red Cross has donated a notable quantity of rice to the Cambodian Red Cross to assist 100,000 people affected by drought in Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, and Kompong Cham Provinces.

This active cooperation results from the unification, on 9 February in Phnom Penh, of the Red Cross organizations of the Cambodian parties, signatories of the Paris peace agreement, to carry out humanitarian work for Cambodians throughout the entire country.

Sihanouk Remarks on SRV Troop Pull-Out Hailed

BK2602010892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Recently, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, said the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] should find out whether Vietnam has already withdrawn all its aggressor forces from Cambodia.

The prince's remark is in line with the Paris agreement and the current situation in Cambodia where the Vietnamese aggressors are continuing their aggression and occupation of Cambodia. It is also in full accord with the desire of the victimized Cambodian people who want supervision over the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

His wanting all Vietnamese to leave Cambodia emphasizes the prince's sincere desire and lofty nationalist ideals for Cambodia to enjoy peace with genuine independence, and so that its people can earn their living peacefully.

Vigorous Fight Urged Against Vietnamese

BK2502045992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Unattributed commentary: "Hold Aloft the Banner of Implementing the Directive on Using Both Right and Left

Hands to Fight Resolutely Against the Vietnamese Aggressors To Effectively Defend Ourselves, Our Liberated Villages and Communes, and Our Struggle Until the Vietnamese Aggressors Implement the Agreement and Until the Transitional Authority Arrives To Join With the Supreme National Council To Supervise the Withdrawal of Vietnamese Aggressor Forces From Cambodia"]

[Text] The current situation is marked by the fact that the Vietnamese aggressors have diverted the Paris agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression into an agreement legitimizing Vietnam's permanent occupation of Cambodia. This is why in this 14th dry season, particularly since the signing of the peace agreement to end the Vietnamese war of aggression, the Vietnamese aggressors have used the aid meant for the Supreme National Council [SNC] as a means for feeding and enabling their forces to attack the resistance forces and launch large-, medium- and small-scale operations successively to kill the Cambodian people everywhere.

The Vietnamese aggressors have been able to launch all-out offensives against the resistance forces in an attempt to finish them up because the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has continued to postpone its coming to work with the SNC headed by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk in supervising the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

In such a situation, it is most imperative for the Cambodian nation and people to heighten their determination to fight arduously against the Vietnamese aggressors in line with the directive on using both right and left hands in the fight to resolutely defend ourselves, our liberated villages and communes, and our struggle.

To successfully implement this directive, it is imperative for every Cambodian as well as the combatants of all national resistance forces who are owners of land, seas, and national destiny to join forces even more firmly within the framework of the policy to rally great national union for attacking the Vietnamese aggressors even more vigorously and thrust forward to firmly strangle the enemies so that the people in our rear can work to earn their living as they wish.

Only by always mastering the situation of the enemies and by implementing all lines of action in a lively way can we smash and defeat the 14th dry-season offensive of the Vietnamese aggressors. Only through this will the Vietnamese aggressors be compelled to implement the agreement and the UNTAC be pushed to quickly come to join with the SNC in supervising the withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces in line with the Paris document dated 23 October 1991.

SRV Troops Shell Villages in Kompong Speu

BK2502044592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpt] According to a report from Kompong Speu Province, on 15 February, the Vietnamese aggressors sent over 400 troops to launch operations against Krang Ampil and (Srang) communes in Kong Pisei District and Prey Khmeng commune in Phnum Sruoch District of Kompong Speu Province.

In these operations, the Vietnamese aggressor troops fired artillery shells into various villages, killing or wounding a large number of people, killing many farm animals, burning houses, and damaging muc. of the people's property.

The people in Kong Pisei and Phnum Sruoch Districts were very enraged by these barbarous acts of the Vietnamese aggressors. They called on the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to quickly come to Cambodia to join with the Supreme National Council in supervising the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Civilians Resist Police in Land Dispute

BK2402034692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] According to a report from Phnom Penh, on 21 February 1992, the Vietnamese aggressor administration in Phnom Penh ordered the (?5th) Police Unit to attack 360 families in an attempt to drive them out of plots of land on the outskirts of Phnom Penh.

Due to this barbarous bloodshedding act, a woman was killed, five people were wounded and many houses were destroyed.

The report added that the people were very angry with the Vietnamese aggressor administration and said that they would fight on and would not leave these plots of land which belong to them. They said that if they left this land, they would not have anywhere else to go.

Is not this barbarous act of plundering the people's land a violation of the people's rights to live and to land ownership?

The people were very angry with those criminals who tried to plunder their land and dismantle their houses. The people, armed with knives and axes, counterattacked those criminals to prevent them from plundering their land at will.

Earlier, there was an acute conflict over a plot of land in Phnom Penh between the Vietnamese aggressor administration and the fraternal Cambodian soldiers.

If the Vietnamese aggressor administration carries on such acts to arbitrarily seize people's land, to what extent will the acute social conflict increase both in Phnom Penh and in provinces under control of the Vietnamese aggressor administration?

Indonesia

Territorial Waters Closed to 'Peace Boat'

BK2502132992 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] A press statement from the Directorate of Information in the Foreign Affairs Department said in Jakarta today that Indonesia has declared its territorial waters closed to the Portuguese boat Lusitania Expresso, and has firmly rejected the planned visit of the Lusitania Expresso group.

In accordance with Indonesia's sovereign rights and for the sake of public order, the government will enforce the applicable national and international laws if the group persists on proceeding with its journey to East Timor.

The statement said the Indonesian Government will certainly not tolerate any blatant violation of its national laws or international laws by a group of people who have explicitly stated their intention of entering Indonesian territory without regard to existing laws and with the intention of making provocations. So far the government has not received any request from either the operators of the boat or its passengers for authorization to sail into Indonesian waters or to land at Dili or for visas, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Philip Flood said in Jakarta today that if the Lusitania Expresso boat stops in Darwin, the Australian Government will alert the boat's captain to the risks involved should the boat and its passengers continue their voyage to Dili, East Timor. He added that if the boat's passengers engage in illegal actiities while in Darwin, Australian authorities will take action in the usual way.

The Australian Embassy in Jakarta said in its press release today that the Australian Government does not regard the ship's visit as contributing in any useful way to the process of reconciliation in East Timor Province. According to Philip Flood, it would be wiser if the concerned group from Portugal would think of constructive initiatives rather than resort to a negative act such as the visit by the boat.

Visit Denounced as 'Provocative'

BK2602080992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 26 (AFP)—Indonesian authorities Wednesday declared the former Portuguese colony of East Timor temporarily off limits to foreign journalists about a week ahead of the planned visit of a Portuguese "peace boat" there.

Applications for permits to go to Timor, required by foreign journalists and correspondents and Indonesians working for foreign media groups here, were "suspended," an official at the Department of Information said Wednesday.

The suspension was tantamount to a ban, observers here said.

The only journalists allowed in East Timor were Dili-based correspondents for the Indonesian media, the official added.

The decision came about a week ahead of the planned arrival of a Portugese ferry, the Lusitania Expresso, at Dili, East Timor.

The some 100 students and journalists on board the ship are planning to lay wreaths at a cemetery in Dili to honor the victims of a shooting there in November which killed scores of civilians.

The boat, expected in Dili early in March, will stop in Darwin in Australia before proceeding to East Timor which Jakarta annexed in 1976. The United Nations still views Lisbon as the administering power in East Timor.

The government Tuesday rejected the planned visit of the Lusitania Expresso which it said was "provocative in nature," and "not at all humanitarian but politically motivated," and declared its territorial waters closed to the "peace boat."

It said the voyage was "in line with neither a peaceful travel nor innocent passage" and was "designed to instigate confrontation, aggravate tension, induce divisiveness and incite disturbances in East Timor."

East Timor Military Operational Commander Brigadier General Theo Syafei Monday warned that passengers of the boat would be arrested if they tried to land there. Other military officials have said the boat would be treated in the same way as a fishing vessel intent on poaching.

Daily Objects to Arrival of Ship

BK2402072292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] ANGKATAN BERSENJATA has commented on the planned arrival of a Portuguese ship in Dili. The arrival of the ship with East Timor-born passengers is clearly a provocative action and it will bring new tension to our country's youngest province even though the Indonesian Armed Forces managed to restore security and order in the province some time ago. Therefore, it is normal for us to reject the ship, especially if it comes without a permit.

American Journalist Asked To Leave East Timor

BK2602101292 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 19 feb 92 p 3

[Excerpt] Dili (JP)— An American journalist who works for a Japanese daily was asked to leave East Timor yesterday.

Peter Simon Goodman, a correspondent for THE JAPAN TIMES, as well as a freelancer for several other newspapers, came here last Thursday.

Goodman told THE JAKARTA POST that he was here to try to interview Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao and East Timor Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo. Until yesterday he had only managed to meet the bishop's assistant Tito Batista, he said.

Sources told the POST that the journalist had been living for six months in Indonesia and he had not done anything wrong while in Dili. [passage omitted]

Commander Says FRETILIN Forces Dispersed

BK2602085092 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 15 Feb 92 p 3

[Excerpt] Dili, (JP): East Timor Military Commander Brigadier General Theo Syafei says that the clandestine FRETILIN [Revolutionary Movement For an Independent East Timor] forces here have dispersed after the November 12 bloody incident.

"The leaders are fed up with the uncertain situation in the organization. They are no longer able to fight," Theo told reporters after officiating the military operation in Dili yesterday.

Theo, as quoted by THE JAKARTA POST correspondent Jacob Herin, said that he received the information from copies of a letter circulated by the FRETILIN's followers hiding in the forest.

The letter which was written by deputy chief of FRETILIN Antonio Jose Da Costa, also appealed to followers to surrender claiming the organization had run out of stock of ammunition and food.

"Political propaganda through radio will not work either, while journalists' reports can change nothing but draw international attention," Theo said quoting the letter.

FRETILIN members also admitted the significant development in Indonesia's youngest province. "We may hope Portugal, as the chairman of the European Economic Community (EEC), can do something for us. But, actually, Portugal can do nothing to help us. The EEC alone now respects Indonesia's efforts on East Timor development," Theo said quoting the letter.

East Timor is a former colony of Portugal. It was integrated into Indonesia in 1976 after the Portuguese left.

Theo said he also learned from the letter that eight FRETILIN members would soon give up.

Theo made the statement only a day after UN special envoy Amos Wako left East Timor after a two-day visit to seek clarification on the November 12 incident which left more than 50 people killed when troops clashed with demonstrators.

Meanwhile, a legislator has called on Indonesian security officials to take harsh measures against a Portuguese ship which is planning to arrive in Dili at the end of the month. [passage omitted]

Bilateral Relations With Malaysia Bogged Down

BK2502115392 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0927 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 25 (OANA-ANTARA)—Border issues and the problem of illegal workers are still expected to colour bilateral relations between Indonesia and Malaysia in the coming years, even though both sides have over the past few years increased efforts to overcome them, Indonesian Ambassador to Malaysia Sunarso Jajusman said here on Monday.

The ambassador who have completed his service in Malaysia and will return to Indonesia on Tuesday said that the urgent problem that needed an immediate arrangement were the border issues and the different perception of the two countries on the status of the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands.

The border arrangement, which includes trading activities in the border areas, needs attention because it would serve as an important instrument for the two countries with regard to their common border, he said.

Jajusman explained that Indonesia and Malaysia actually already have a border agreement since 1967 but it needed to be reviewed because it had not worked well. "This is not a new issue but it has to be solved," he added.

The ambassador expressed his confidence that the Ligitan and Sipadan issues would be solved because the neighbouring countries have a close relation. He said that border problem is a sensitive issue in the relations between the two states. Therefore, the ambassador said he was satisfied with his term of office in that country during which the problem of the two islands which had been buried for 22 years could be lifted up to be solved.

But Jajusman admitted that it would need time to cope with the problem as it involved matters relating to the laws.

Commenting on the tension around the islands due to the presence of patrol boats of the armed forces of both countries recently, the one-star retired general said that it was an expression of attitude of the two countries which were desirous to solve their common problem immediately.

The ambassador said that such tension should not necessarily occur if the two countries organized a joint patrol around the islands which were located near East Kalimantan (Indonesia) and Sabah (Malaysia). Malaysia and Indonesia began to discuss again the status of the islands at a General Border Commission meeting in Kuala Lumpur last October.

He said that the relations between the two nations were fostered by cooperation between their Armed Forces besides by the personal relations of their leaders. "Their relations are so close so that it is impossible for the two nations to be involved in confrontation."

On the occasion the ambassador said that the two countries also needed to give serious attention to illegal workers. Malaysia needs Indonesian workers to carry out its development but on the other hand their presence was also believed to create new social problems. He predicted that Indonesian workers will continue to flock into Malaysia in the coming years, which needed to be handled in order not to disturb bilateral relations.

Laos

PRC Education Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK2502103492 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 25 (KPL)—An education delegation of the People's Republic of China led by Mr. Li Tieying, state advisor, president of the National Education Committee, arrived here on February 23 on a three-day visit to the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] at the invitation of the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports.

Lieutenant General Saman Vignaket, Lao Education and Sports Minister, and Chinese Ambassador to Laos Huang Guocai were among others present at the airport to greet the Chinese delegation. Yesterday morning the Chinese delegation visited the Dongdok Teachers' Training College and the pre-course school for students selected to study abroad. The delegation presented some 24 sets of audio equipment as gift to the school.

On the same day afternoon, the Chinese education delegation visited the Vientiane Senior Secondary School and a number of archaeological sites in Vientiane.

Calls on President; Departs

BK2602033192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] This morning, Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received at the Presidential Office in Vientiane a courtesy call from an education delegation of the PRC headed by Li Tieying, state councillor and chairman of the National Education Committee, which is on a current visit to Laos.

On this occasion, President Kaysone Phomvihan welcomed the visit to Laos by the Chinese education delegation, which, he said, has contributed to further enhancing and improving the quality of the developing friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the two countries, in particular the cooperation in the educational field to which both sides have attached importance.

On the morning of the same day, the Lao and Chinese delegations also jointly signed a memorandum on educational cooperation in a ceremony held at the Education and Sports Ministry. Signing for the Lao side was Phimmason, deputy minister of education and sports, and signing for the Chinese side was (Li Qing), vice chairman of the National Education Committee of the PRC. The signing ceremony was held in the presence of Saman Vignaket, minister of education and sports, and Li Tieying, state councillor and chairman of the National Education Committee of the PRC.

Contained in the contents of the memorandum was the assessment of the implementation of the educational cooperation agreement signed between the two countries in 1991. Also stipulated in the memorandum were plans for further cooperation.

The PRC education delegation arrived in Laos on 23 February and left for home this afternoon.

Strong Foundations for National Defense Urged

BK2502103792 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 7 Feb 92 pp 3, 4

[Article by Misai: "Enhance National Defense and Resist Subtle Schemes by the Enemies To Affect Changes"]

[Text] Changes in East European countries and the former Soviet Union have brought adverse consequences to our country and people. Hostile forces view those changes as an important opportunity for them to implement the policy of "affecting new changes through nonviolent means" toward the remaining socialist countries. Of course, our country is also included among their targets of destruction. Therefore, national defense and maintenance of internal peace and order are now the urgent tasks and duties of the entire people.

The resolution adopted at the fourth party congress clearly stipulates that "national defense and maintenance of tranquility in the new era are the duty of the entire party, Army, and people, and must be closely tied to all spheres of work. The task of defending the country and tranquility in the new era is aimed at enhancing national unity; promoting reconciliation among ethnic groups; holding aloft the spirit of patriotism and revolutionary traditions; safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; securing political stability, tranquility, and social peace and order; protecting the party and power of the popular democratic system; and defending lives, property, and peace for the multiethnic people throughout the country."

In other words, the task of national defense and maintenance of tranquility in the new era is to defend national independence, freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; protect the condition under which the people can exert their labor in peace; and safeguard the country's natural resources, material, technical, and cultural bases, construction projects, and the fruits of the revolution of our people.

The task of national defense and maintenance of tranquility in a time of peace and in an environment in which the market economy is being developed and the market mechanism is playing the leading role is quite complicated because the hostile forces are carrying on their subversive schemes in different forms and colors. Through the celebration of our people's traditional festivals, their influence has both openly and clandestinely infiltrated to undermine the people's warm and happy way of life. However, it is not easy to find any evidence against them.

A number of lessons we have learned have clearly proved that the hostile forces in collaboration with the right-leaning elements will first of all try to undermine the party's solidarity and leadership. Hence, they will gradually seize the administrative power and destroy our political system through nonviolent means. Although the tricks they apply with our and other countries differ due to different conditions, there is one common practice. That is, they will take advantage of the weakness of the state administration and negative phenomena among cadres to deceive the people. They raise in their propaganda the issues of human rights, democracy, and pluralism to separate the people from the party and state and form an anti-revolutionary movement, thus, through the power of the people, creating political chaos and dragging our country off the path chosen by the people. For this reason, the task of training and educating the entire party, Army, and people so everyone understands the relationship between the defense of the country and the popular democratic system is one of the indispensable and important undertakings.

Meanwhile, we must oppose and eliminate the belief that "any system is good if it brings about sufficiency in living standards." In fact, such an attitude derives from the desire to separate the national problems from class problems, and the struggle for national defense from the struggle for defending the interests of the laboring people and from the desire to separate the foundation of independence and freedom from the new regime before leading the country into the other orbit. We can never defend and safeguard our national sovereignty and territorial integrity and our multiethnic people's peaceful and warm way of life without our revolutionary principles and the party leadership.

Persons who remain thoroughly careful and faithful to the country, genuinely love the people, and have learned lessons from history must clearly realize who these hostile forces and bad elements are, and that they wish to destroy the new regime. They are a handful of people who previously committed crimes against our country and multiethnic people and whose vested interests were closely linked to the past war against our country and people. Presently, the multiethnic Lao people have come to more clearly understand the one truth, that is: "Only by safeguarding the people's administrative power, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the state, and the new regime will we be able to defend the foundation of independence and genuine freedom for the people as well as the livelihood and interests of the people of all strata in our society."

We all know very well that most Lao people are patriotic. However, we must also understand that the level of patriotism of each class of people is different. This is easy to understand. The form of the economic system we have adopted after the liberation of our country has made considerable achievements. Nonetheless, it has also been plagued with numerous shortcomings caused by both objective and subjective conditions. As a result, renovation must be introduced in the new period in order to enable the new system to clearly show its true nature as a system actually "belonging to the people, working for the people, and coming from the people." This is the true nature of the people's democratic regime. But we must admit that a practical display of this in full cannot be made overnight and that the struggle to safeguard the new regime is not an easy task. Lenin once said: "The struggle to seize administrative power is already difficult, but the safeguarding of this power is even more so."

The struggle in this period must be waged in all aspects of social life as well in all political, ideological, economic, cultural, military, and diplomatic domains. Therefore, it is urgent that in carrying out the struggle to defend the country, we must closely coordinate our opposition to the hostile forces from outside with the suppresion of bad elements within the country, and closely link the building of national defense forces with the consolidation of national security and national defense with the safeguarding of peace. But the most important thing is that we must resolutely rectify all shortcomings and mistakes, resist all acts of negativism in the state apparatuses and society, maintain political stability, win victories in each step of renovation, bring about actual material and spiritual benefits to the multiethnic laboring people to consolidate their faith and confidence in the party leadership, and consolidate and strengthen the unity of the entire people to create a firm foundation for our national defense and national construction.

Defending the country is the work that must be consistently executed by the entire party, Army, and people as well as all services that have roles to play in society. First of all, we must inspire the struggle on the theoretical, ideological, and political battle front, and expose all sinister schemes of the enemies aimed at undermining the new regime, slandering our history, and encouraging our people to abandon the spirit of revolutionary fighting painstakingly forged by our party leaders and senior revolutionary fighters. At the same time, we must closely coordinate national defense with national construction, and national defense with the safeguarding of the country's economic and cultural foundations, and build strong foundations for national defense work among the entire masses by primarily building firm bases in all strategic locations to ensure favorable conditions for all localities throughout the country to be able to take the intiative to smash all subversive designs and acts of the enemies.

To accomplish the said achievements, we must possess a strong military force. To have a strong military force, we must build up and improve the people's Armed Forces. The current direction for building up the people's Armed Forces is that "we must regard companies as fundamental combat units with political guidance. The Armed Forces must also participate in the political, ideological, and theoretical struggles; oppose the enemy propaganda warfare; join the mass mobilization movement; contribute to national construction; eliminate the belief that "military units are non-political entities and have no class;" and "military units are merely used for national defense." It is undeniable that as long as class exists in society, the state and its tools must also have classes. The belief that military units are non-political entities and classless national defense forces and should remain neutral in the class struggle is in fact a trick of the enemies to effect changes through nonviolent means. Weapons of military units without political guidance are meaningless. When the conditions are ripe, the hostile forces will topple the laboring people's regime and seize the administrative power. Hence, they can fully exploit our Armed Forces.

For this reason the Armed Forces, which have been tested in the past victorious wars and reputed for their traditions of combat heroism, must always be loyal to the party and people and maintain combat readiness for the defense of national independence, the well-being of the multiethnic people, and the country's prosperity in the future.

Drop in Export Revenue, Trade Deficit Recorded

BK2602044092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] According to statistics released by the Ministry of Trade and Tourism, Lao exports during the (?first) nine months of 1991 earned only U.S. $65,338,500. The estimated export revenue in 1991 was U.S. $112,566,300. Compared to 1990, this has decreased by 22 percent. The ministry attributed the decrease to the reduction in timber exports and the production of electricity for export. Moreover, we have also failed to take our import targets into account when promoting export enterprises. As a result, we were unable to meet export targets. The ministry went on to say that in 1991, imports amounted to approximately U.S. $292,451,100—an increase of 62 percent compared to 1990. This increase has been attributed to our free trade policy which sets no limit on the imports of all kinds of goods.

In 1991, Laos suffered a trade deficit of U.S. $83,321,200.

Culture, Information Ministry Reviews 1991 Work

BK2602062592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Culture recently held a meeting at the Vientiane theater to review work in 1991 and to map out the 1992 program of action. At the meeting, Mounkeo Olaboun [name as heard], minister of information and culture, said that in the past year cadres and state employees in the various services under the supervision of the ministry, such as the Khaosan Pathet Lao [KPL] News Agency, the national radio and television stations, public address systems, magazines, and newspapers, have fully and correrctly fulfilled their roles in providing the public with news and information in accordance with the policy of the state. The cultural service of the ministry has also published many novels and short stories for public consumption and registered more than 44,000 copies of palm leaf manuscripts and studied and translated a number of them into the modern Lao language. The ministry also restored an old museum in the ancient city of Luang Prabang and the Vat Phou ruins and conducted a study on the prehistoric artifacts found in Champassak District with funds provided by international organizations.

In addition, the technical and business services under the ministry have also earned more than 50,200,000 kip.

On its foreign relations work, the ministry has managed to secure aid from Vietnam, China, Japan, Thailand, France, and Australia for building foundations for information and cultural work. As a result of these glorious achievements, two cadres of the ministry have been awarded with the government labor order, 35 with the government meritorious certificates, 183 with the ministry's meritorious certificates, and 274 with gifts from the ministry. The minister also outlined the ministry's program of action for this year, aimed at expanding information services, seeking more views from the masses for presentation in a more extensive manner, transforming the mass media facilities into a link between the party and state and the masses and between our country and the international comnmununity, raising the quality of newspapers and other publications, increasing the rate of readership by adding more columns to newspapers, installing more technical and material equipment for the radio and television networks both at the center and in the localities, safeguarding and restoring the national and popular culture, carrying out cultural exchanges with other countries, expanding cultural relations and cooperation with fraternal countries, securing more funds and lessons from foreign countries for consolidating and expanding our national cultural and information work, and improving the standard of knowledge among cadres.

Philippines

U.S. Challenged Not To Interfere in Elections

HK2402134192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Senator Joseph Estrada severely criticized the U.S. Government for trying to meddle in the country's coming polls.

In a news conference held at the Sheraton Hotel this morning, he said that the United States is trying to come up with ways to disrupt the coming 11 May elections in an attempt to retain its bases in the country.

He has asked the help of foreign media to convey to the United States his challenge to them to respect our democracy and to give us the freedom to hold peaceful and honest elections.

[Begin Estrada recording in English] I issue a challenge to the American Government. Please honor your commitment to democracy and its processes. Please respect the will of the Filipino people. Do not promote crisis in this country, for we have enough of them. [end recording]

The senator also added that although he would like to believe the United States will not interfere in the coming polls, documents show that there was never a president who was elected to office without the United States meddling in the polls.

Mitra Warns No Interference

HK2602021592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The United States has no right to interfere with Philippine internal affairs even if there is a threat of a coup in the country. This was announced by the Speaker Ramon Mitra, Struggle of the Filipino Democrats presidential candidate, and his running mate, former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan, as a reaction to the newspaper report from the U.S. Defense Department that the U.S. Government plans to send troops into the country in order to protect Americans in case of a coup.

Mitra and Fernan said that it is a remote possibility that a coup might occur. Mitra said under his administration, there will be new changes in the military and in the Executive Branch in order to avoid a possible coup in the country.

DTI Assures Japan on Investment Policies

HK2502051892 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) assured Japanese investors that its existing policies, especially on foreign investment, and those being pursued will continue despite a change in leadership in May.

Trade and Industry Secretary Lilia R. Bautista made this statement during a meeting with a joint government-business Japanese mission led by the Tokyo-based ASEAN Center.

The mission, which is being done annually over the past decade, has been attracting Japanese investments to the Philippines. This year, the mission hopes to lure more Japanese business "although most of them are still adopting a wait-and-see attitude in view of the weak global economic condition," A. Mohtar, investment division director at the ASEAN Center said.

Optimistic

He is optimistic the Philippines will lure investors "given a number of advantages over other neighboring (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) ASEAN countries."

"The Philippines has ample labor supply. There is not much difficulty since the majority of the labor force speak English and its ease in adopting to the Japanese working style," he added.

The mission, which is basically at its exploratory stage, will visit the country's export processing zones and the Calabarzon [Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon] areas.

After the visit, the mission will move to Jakarta, Indonesia and Singapore.

"A number of Japanese businessmen are happy working here since Filipino workers are highly trainable," Ms. Bautista said.

Imelda To Bury Marcos Corpse in Ilocos Norte

HK2502043192 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos is planning a trip to bring back the corpse of former President Ferdinand Marcos. Mrs. Marcos announced this after she pleaded not guilty to charges of illegally acquiring large assets, filed at the Pasay Regional Trial Court.

In an interview with DZMM, Mrs. Marcos said she was leaving for Ilocos Norte to prepare a burial place for the former president. She said she has agreed to have her husband's corpse buried in Ilocos and not at the National Heroes' Cemetery in Manila.

Agrees to Government Conditions

HK2502040392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0330 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Manila, Feb 25 (AFP)—Former first lady Imelda Marcos announced Tuesday she had agreed to bury her husband in his home province, clearing the way for the return of the late dictator's remains from Hawaii to the Philippines.

A spokesman for President Corazon Aquino said the ban on the remains of Ferdinand Marcos, who died in Honolulu in 1989, would be lifted following the announcement.

"We agreed to bring him back to Laoag, which is why we will bring him back as soon as possible," Marcos told journalists in a suburban courthouse where she was arraigned on one of several sets of criminal charges filed by the government against her.

Marcos, a candidate for president in the May elections, made the announcement on the sixth anniversary of the 1986 revolt that overthrew her husband and installed Aquino in power.

Marcos said she was leaving for her husband's northern home province Ilocos Norte "where he can be buried."

Aides said Marcos would ask the government to issue a promised passport so she can seek permission to leave for Honolulu, where the former martial law ruler died in 1989.

She said she agreed to the government conditions "in spite of the fact that they are violations not only of constitutional and human rights but also of natural law, which is the fundamental law."

"It is natural to bury any person any place he wants to be buried," she said.

The Aquino government banned the remains on security grounds, fearing riots by diehard Marcos loyalists, but later softened its stand by allowing the body's repatriation if his family agreed to bury him in Ilocos Norte.

Earlier, the 62-year-old widow, clad in a black-and-red dress and a pearl, gold and silver necklace, pleaded not guilty to three counts of opening illegal deposits in Swiss banks while in power.

Asked if the government would now lift the ban on the remains, Press Secretary Horacio Paredes told AFP: "No problem. It's automatic."

On the possibility that Marcos might use the return of the body and the burial to draw sympathy for her candidacy, Paredes said people are now "very aware of election gimmicks."

"I don't know whether it will be a good gimmick to do it. People are just too aware already," he said.

"This is a strange election. If a dead man can give a widow some extra votes, we will always welcome a strange phenomenon."

Eight candidates are running for president after Aquino shunned a re-election bid. Apart from Imelda Marcos, a close associate of the former ruler, business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, is also running for president.

Police Prevent Leftists March Toward Rally

HK2602031292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 26 Feb 92 p 1

[Italicized passages published in Tagalog]

[Text] Police yesterday barred some 15,000 leftists who tried to march toward the government-sponsored rally at the Our Lady of EDSA [Epifanio delos Santos Avenue] Shrine on Ortigas commemmorating the sixth anniversary of the EDSA revolt.

The marchers—mostly students, workers, farmers and Bayan members—were stopped by some 300 anti-riot policemen on P. Tuazon and EDSA in Cubao, about 1.5 kilometer away.

Leaders negotiated with police but were turned away after they failed to show a rally permit.

Last night, the PNP [Philippine National Police] Highway Patrol Group also intecepted 18 vehicles carrying militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [New Nationalist Alliance] members from Southern Tagalog and briefly detained them in Camp Crame.

The group was on route to EDSA to join the anti-government rally when it was blocked by HPG [Highway Patrol Group] operatives.

They were released two hours later after they protested their detention but the drivers were issued tickets for alleged traffic violation.

"*I thought we were no longer in the era of Marcos*," an elderly man said as he eyed the truncheon-wielding policemen.

Liddy Alejandro, Bayan secretary general, said they applied for a rally permit last Feb 19 but the Quezon City government turned it down.

The marchers were forced to hold their program along EDSA in Cubao where speakers took turns lamenting the "death of EDSA."

"*Nobody can claim EDSA for his own*," Nathanical Santiago, Bayan deputy secretary general, said.

Alejandro also branded the six-year term of President Aquino as a "mockery of the heroism of the people," who were responsible for the success of the 1986 revolt. Alejandro's husband, Lean, was gunned down in 1988 by assailants believed to be connected with the military.

Leto Villar, vice chairman of the Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement], said "no political group" had the right to lay sole claim on the uprising as various "political forces and aspirations" were responsible for its success.

A festive mood filled the air as the crowd cheered and applauded the songs rendered by a live band playing atop a flatbed truck.

Vendors also joined the march from Isetann to EDSA in Cubao.

Taxi drivers, however, complained of the heavy traffic caused by the two rallies.

"*These are a big nuisance,*" taxi driver Normie Caber, 37, said.

Caber said he failed to reach his "boundary" yesterday because he got stuck in traffic for hours.

Abadia Dismisses NDF Investigation of Massacre

HK2502125992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By Rodney Jaleco; italicized passages in English]

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, dismissed the National Democratic Front's [NDF] investigation into the massacre of government troopers in (Mariasal), Surigao del Sur on 15 February.

Abadia said the investigation is merely an NDF attempt to dismiss the bad image given by the incident to the New People's Army [NPA].

The NDF's investigation, according to Abadia, may just become a *white-wash*, just like their investigation of Operation Missing Link, where an estimated 200 NPA rebels were killed on suspicion of being government *deep-penetration agents.*

Abadia said that the NDF is pulling the military's leg when they proposed to form a committee that will formulate a *mutual code of conduct* that will apply to both warring sides and to the civilians who are caught in battle.

He added that the NPA has often violated human rights by using young men and women in their *insurgency combat operations*, carrying out kidnappings, and killing innocent civilians.

However, the general said that the military is not closing its doors to a peaceful solution to the insurgency problem. He added that they will continue with the peace initiative which they have already started.

Meanwhile, Major General Arturo Enrile, Philippine Army chief, said that the Army will be strengthening its intelligence operations in Surigao del Sur to hunt down the three NPA groups responsible for the massacre. According to Enrile, the three groups have been divided into smaller groups; hence, the Army will follow the NPA's lead and operate in smaller groups to hunt down the rebels.

Military Details Use of 'Youngsters'

HK2602072592 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 26 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[By Herbie Gomez and Manny Mogato]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro City—Military authorities yesterday brushed off claims of the National Democratic Front (NDF) that New People's Army guerillas who slaughtered a platoon of soldiers in Marihatag, Surigao del Sur, were not youngsters.

They also took with caution the NDF's offer to investigate the Feb. 15 ambush which left at least 41 soldiers dead.

The Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Lisandro Abadia, said he doubted the sincerity of the NDF in pursuing an honest investigation and labeled the rebels' moves as "face-saving."

He was also skeptical about the rebels' motive in proposing the creation of a joint committee to investigate as well as monitor the conduct of guerilla war in the countryside.

The 4th Infantry Division commander, Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Quintin Alcudia, insisted that the communist movement in northern Mindanao had been recruiting minors.

To prove his point, Alcudia told newsmen that hundreds of rebels who either surrendered or were captured in 1990 in the region were teenagers.

About 50 guerrillas aged 11 to 16 years surrendered to the army last year, he said.

One of them, Carlito Dingganon alias Byder, said he was initiated into the NPA at age 12. He voluntarily surrendered to the military in early 1991 when he was 16.

Alcudia said Dingganon was a close aide of rebel leader Ma. Luisa Purgray, alias Kumander Meriam, the No. 2 officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines regional party committee who was captured in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur, last year.

Dingganon was one of the pioneers of "Operation Zombie," a communist move in the region to purge its ranks of suspected military deep penetration agents and rebel returnees, Alcudia said.

Dingganon also owned the killings of a number of soldiers and some of his colleagues in Misarnis Oriental.

In an interview, Dingganon said "teenage recruits are forced to kill to test their courage."

Hector Mabilangan, Southern Tagalog NPA chief, had claimed in a press statement that it was against NPA policy to recruit fighters below 17.

Editorial Views Rebel Movement

HK2602085692 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 26 Feb 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Surigao Incident Bares Grave Rebel Disease"]

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] has promised to investigate the Surigao ambush for any evidence of wrongdoing by the communist guerrillas.

This is the second time the insurgent leadership is conducting an investigation of its own forces. Earlier, the NDF conducted an exhaustive investigation on the massacre of 39 civilians in a Protestant chapel outside Digos, Davao del Sur. The massacre happened on June 25, 1989.

In its report on the incident, the NDF admitted that the NPA platoon involved bears "responsibility...for failing to exercise political wisdom and restraint." The insurgents offered an apology and compensation for the survivors.

Last Feb. 15, hundreds of NPA [New People's Army] guerrillas staged an ambush on a patrol of the 23rd Infantry Battalion in Marihatag, Surigao del Sur. Forty-seven soldiers died in that ambush. Seventeen were wounded.

The survivors claim the guerrillas killed off some of their wounded comrades. Bodies of soldiers were mutilated. Dead officers were decapitated and their eyes gouged.

Military spokesmen have also claimed that the guerrillas employed boys—some as young as 12—in the ambush. The youth of the ambushers inhibited soldiers from firing back. Some of the survivors claim the guerrillas appeared to be drug-crazed as they attacked with unusual ferocity.

The claims made by the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] indeed merit an investigation by the insurgent leadership. The composition of the guerrilla force and the behavior of the fighters in the aftermath of the ambush may involve serious violations of the norm of conduct expected of combatants as specified by the Geneva Convention. The guerrilla force involved may be guilty of serious human rights violations.

The NDF needs to go through the motions of an investigation at least to deflect some of the negative public reaction due to the incident. But such an investigation, like the one conducted on the Digos incident, might address only the surface issues and miss the core problems completely.

The Surigao incident ought to be put not only in the perspective of the Digos massacre. It must also be assessed in the light of bloody purges conducted by the insurgent movement on its own ranks. Mass graves have been uncovered indicating the extent of internal purges carried out, most notably among rebel ranks in Southern Tagalog and Northern Mindanao.

The behavior of CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] cadres and NPA guerrillas in these incidents suggests that a deeper problem haunts the insurgent movement. Incidents such as the Surigao ambush and the Digos massacre must not be taken in isolation. A pattern of degeneration of the insurgent forces appears clear.

It used to be that the leftwing revolutionaries consistently displayed quality leadership and sharp political sensibilities. NPA guerrillas were admired for their strict adherence to a well defined code of conduct. Discipline in the rank and file of insurgents was exemplary. The rebels enjoyed moral ascendancy in the eyes of the masses.

Much appears to have changed on the part of the insurgent movement. Many factors may explain the apparent declining quality of the revolutionary cadre indicated by more frequent occurrence of seemly [as published] behavior and human rights violations.

Many analysts concede that the organizational problems now confronting the CPP has led to a slackening of the firm political leadership it once provided the guerrilla units. The organizational problems are due in part to decimation of the movement's ranks because of arrests, deaths and desertion. It is, in all probability, also a consequence of a conscious but romantic policy of recruiting less political cadres from the intelligentsia and more from the "basic masses." This policy alters the sociological profile of the insurgent political leadership, reflecting in the decreasing political sophistication of leading party cadres.

The changing sociological profile of the revolutionary cadres is also due to the declining attraction of the rebel movement among young intellectuals. The radical student movement, once a rich source of leading party cadres, is now virtually moribund.

The declining quality of radical political leadership compounds the problems brought about by the CPP's policy of decentralization. This policy has given territorial units of the NPA (organized now into self-contained "commands") greater autonomy from CPP direction. The specialization of NPA units into principally fighting forces causes the erosion of the original sense of the guerrilla being principally a political activist.

The above trends create fertile ground for such unwholesome incidents as those that took place in Digos and Surigao.

Military on Threat From Leftist, Rightist Groups

HK2602080192 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Feb 92 p 12

[Text] After a series of recent successful communist offensive operations and urban terrorist attempts, the military finally admitted yesterday that the leftist and rightist groups are still potent forces to contend with.

In his prepared speech before members of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines yesterday afternoon, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Lisandro Abadia said "we cannot ignore the posibility that the enemies of state...might take advantage of the seeming preoccupation of the AFP in election duties to turn the situation to their favor."

The "enemies of the state" capable of attempting destabilization moves are the leftist Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front, the ultra-rightist group led by Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance]/Soldiers of Filipino People/Young Officers Union [YOU], and the southern seccessionist Moro National Liberation Front/Moro Islamic Liberation Front, he further indicated.

Nevertheless, Gen. Abadia vowed to contain "any public disorder at whatever cost in support of and with the cooperation of the police."

He added that "the armed forces will not tolerate chaos or disorder to mar the conduct of the forthcoming political exercise which can be crucial to the preservation of our democratic way of life."

He, however, clarified during an earlier interview that he will only obey "constitutional" orders from his commander-in-chief.

Nonpartisan

At the same time, he reiterated that the military establishment will remain nonpartisan during the election, and stressed that the only political duties of each soldier are to vote and to safeguard the votes of the people, as outlined by the AFP Letter of Instruction 02/92 codenamed "Halalan [Election]."

"I have made it clear to the entire organization that the armed forces leadership will not condone any act or utterance that may be construed as favoring a particular candidate or political party. In this regard, I have in fact reminded unit commanders that I shall hold them personally responsible for such acts and utterances of their men," he added.

Meanwhile, detained rebel leader Brig. Gen [Brigadier General] Edgardo Abenina disclosed that a substantial sector within the AFP and PNP [Philippine National Police] organizations that will support former military officers who are running for legislative and local executive positions. [sentence as published]

He also revealed that aside from the detained rebel leaders, members of YOU will also run for local positions.

Thailand

Credits Granted for Russia To Buy Rice

BK2502150792 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin received Leonid Cheshinskiy, deputy trade minister of the Russian Federation, at the Foreign Ministry on 24 February. He told reporters after the meeting that the Thai Government will grant an additional credit of U.S.$30 million for the Russian Federation to buy 500,000 tons of rice from Thailand. The rice will be used to help other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Russian deputy trade minister expressed his thanks for the Thai Government's assistance to his country in various fields. Thailand has already granted U.S.$170 million in credits for Russia to buy Thai rice and will grant another U.S.$30 million in credits. In addition, the Thai Government will provide a free grant of U.S.$500,000 to the Russian Federation. Russia can use this aid to buy any goods from Thailand. The Thai Government will also provide a packing credit of U.S.$50 million that the Russian Federation can use as credit to buy goods from Thai merchants directly. This credit will be divided into two periods, each period will be two years long and charged 10 percent interest.

Foreign Minister Asa said that in providing assistance to foreign countries, we do not take into account whether it is a big or small country but base our aid on that country's hardships, especially if there is a food shortage. The assistance will also pave the way for trade contacts in the future.

Russia Hails Rice Credits

BK2502021192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] The Russian Federation has thanked Thailand for 500,000 tons of rice to ease a food shortage, Grains Minister Leonid Cheshinskiy was quoted as saying yesterday.

Mr Cheshinskiy and a 12-member delegation from the federation are in Thailand at the invitation of the Commerce Ministry to sign a memorandum of understanding on credits for the rice purchase.

The delegation called on Deputy Prime Minister Sano Unakun at Government House yesterday.

Dr Sano told the delegation, the first senior Russian team in Thailnd since the demise of the Soviet Union, that the Thai Government hopes the reforms in Russia will succeed and that it looks forward to expanding cooperation in every aspect with that country.

Mr Cheshinskiy was quoted as saying that Russia needs support from the world community, and thanked the Thai Government for its cooperation to achieve this.

PM's Office Minister M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi represented Thailand at an international conference on aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] recently held in New York.

The humanitarian assistance programme from Thailand to the Russian Federation was divided in three categories: immediate assistance which Russia wants to spend on medicine and infants' food.

According to Mr Kasemsamoson, Thailand was appointed by Russia as a country to coordinate multilateral help for the CIS.

UN Official Expects Return of Refugees in April

BK2202143492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Ataul Karim, chief of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], told newsmen that the repatriation of Cambodian refugees will begin immediately once Thailand's engineering battalion has completed its work of repairing the Poipet-Sisophon road. He expected the repatriation could start around 2 April, and that initially about 10,000 refugees would be sent back each week. Concerning land and shelters for the resettlement of the Cambodian refugees, the UNAMIC chief said it was the UN's task to build shelters and provide farming tools for those Cambodian people, but no discussion in detail had been made with the Cambodian authorities concerning the plot of land to be used.

Paper on Problems With Repatriation

BK2202011792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Feb 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Khmer Returnees Have To Be Reintegrated"]

[Text] It's exactly four months tomorrow, since the United Nations-brokered Paris Peace Accords on Cambodia were signed last October 23 between dignitaries from 19 nations and the four warring Khmer factions. The accords have been designed to bring peace and democracy to the Indochinese country after two decades of conflict, political atrocities and civil war.

One of the most important stipulations in the Cambodian peace accords is a precondition that all the 370,000 Khmer refugees along the Thai-Cambodian border must return home in order for the UN-sponsored elections to be held in early 1993. The peace accords also allow refugees to be settled in the area of their choice in Cambodia. The United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR [United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees], has identified four staging areas to be built inside Thailand and six reception centres in Cambodia for the repatriation scheme which is expected to cost $33 million with another $76 million for operations inside Cambodia.

Two-thirds of the refugees in camps along the Thai border want to resettle in the four northwestern provinces of Battambang, Pursat, Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey, according to a 1989 Ford Foundation's survey, currently being updated. Obviously, there are good reasons why the refugees want to be resettled there.

Firstly, the provinces are grouped around the head of the Tonle Sap (Great Lake), and form Cambodia's rice bowl, which means that food will be in abundance. Secondly, these provinces are also close to the Thai border—a comfort for the refugees who fled the Khmer Rouge's 1975-1979 reign of terror and the ensuing years of civil war. Thailand as a safe haven nearby certainly seems reassuring to the refugees should fighting resume again with the Paris Peace Accords in tatters.

But the largest ever refugee repatriation programme carried out by a UN agency is now fraught with serious problems as the timetable for carrying it out seems to become almost impossible by the day. The process of repatriation has been planned to take nine months and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs Sadaka Ogata, confirmed last month that the scheme is scheduled to take off between March and April. "It is vital because of the planting season. If we (the UNHCR) miss (the timing), it will have to be another year," Ogata told reporters in Bangkok on returning from Phnom Penh. Theoretically Cambodia has two planting seasons, the wet season starting from May to mid-August and the dry season from mid-November to March.

It goes without saying that the UNHCR has the best intentions for the 370,000 refugees along the Thai-Cambodian border. But sincerity without taking into consideration the existing realities could lead to a disaster. The repatriation quotas, as stipulated by the UNHCR by the time the monsoons start, seem to be quite unrealistic. When the rains arrive, the roads which lead from the transit centres in Cambodia to the resettlement sites—which are badly in need of repair now—will turn into quagmires, thus making the transport of these refugees virtually impossible. With the onslaught of the monsoon, cholera and malaria epidemics will be rife—and malaria in Battambang province is almost entirely resistant to medication.

The menace posed by uncleared mines remain the biggest obstacle to the repatriation scheme and officers of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (Unamic) involved in the demining programme have stated that it is almost impossible to launch an operation to make Cambodia 100 per cent free from the hundreds of thousands of mines scattered all over the countryside by the warring factions.

But the saddest episode of the whole repatriation scheme is the unwillingness of donor countries to put their money where their mouths are.

The UNHCR recently urged a quick response from donor countries to its plea for the $109-million fund to repatriate the 370,000 refugees. To expedite the repatriation process, funds are important because the UNHCR cannot carry out the repatriation operation on credit. Clearly, when it comes down to paying soon, the response from donor countries is not that quick.

The overriding question is how long can the Khmer people be made to suffer further. Can the situation be avoided whereby repatriation could result in the setting up of new refugee camps inside Cambodia? Can Khmers at the Thai border go back home and resume life as simple peasants?

At present the answers to these questions remain bleak. Visiting Australian Immigration Minister Gerry Hand was told by UNHCR officials in Battambang last week that the UNHCR was unable to resettle Cambodians at places of their choice because of the lack of suitable land. The UNHCR officials in Battambang have admitted that the 2 hectare plots of land originally intended for regufees would now be cut back to 1.3 hectares.

The vast majority of Khmer returnees share the fate of having been away from their country for several years, many for more than a decade. What they will come back to is not what they left—neither in material and practical terms, nor socially, culturally and politically. Changes have taken place at every level and most returnees will not be able to simply slip backs into their old situation, but will have to be reintegrated.

If the UNHCR fails to assist the returnees in reintegration, the Khmers will soon start coming out of Cambodia again. This is something Thailand and the rest of the world cannot afford.

Cabinet Approves BBC Shortwave Radio Station

BK2602030992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Mar 92 p 6

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved the proposed establishment of a shortwave radio station in Thailand by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The Foreign Ministry had reported to the Cabinet that the BBC wants to set up the radio station on about 285 rai of land either in Nakhon Sawan or Kamphaeng Phet.

Two 250-km shortwave transmitters and satellite reception gear would be installed at the BBC radio station to broadcast programmes from London to Asia.

Officials See AFTA Leading to Freer Trade

BK2602013792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 92 p 26

[Text] Import duty reductions to be introduced under the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) should eventually lead to lower and more streamlined Thai tariffs for imports from all over the world, officials said yesterday.

The next step for liberalisation would be to cut duty rates for steel products and chemicals imported from both inside and outside ASEAN to no more than 10 percent said the Prime Minister's representative in AFTA negotiations, Narongchai Akkharaseni.

This should happen before the present Government's term ended on March 22, Dr Narongchai said.

Ultimately, Thailand's tariff structure should be streamlined to consist of only three rates, he said: 20 percent for finished products, 10 percent for intermediate goods, and 0-5 percent for raw materials.

Thailand's "ulterior motive" in pushing for the ASEAN to adopt AFTA was to overhaul the entire customs duty system, Dr Narongchai said at a conference organised by the Business Economics Department. The meeting was the first opportunity for the private sector to comment publicly on AFTA.

He was supported by Commerce Ministry Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena, who said Thailand would have to lower even more trade barriers if the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks was concluded successfully.

Among the barriers facing the biggest cuts would be those currently protecting agriculture, Mr Phatchara said.

Thailand was actively lobbying for agricultural trade liberalisation through the Uruguay Round so Thai farm exports could gain easier access to protected markets without having to face the present tough trade barriers and high levels of subsidy.

If the 108 nations participating in the round reached an agreement on agriculture, Thailand would also have to comply with the constraints on protection and subsidy.

Sukhon Kanchanalai, director general of the Business Economics Department said finance and commerce officials were completing an improved offer on customs duty rate reductions for the general tariff negotiations that were a separate part of the Uruguay Round.

Thailand's first offer was criticised by the GATT Secretariat for falling short of the 33 percent average cuts that were the target of the Uruguay Round tariff negotiations, Mrs Sukhon said.

Participants in the Uruguay Round were required to submit their latest offers to the Geneva based talks by March 1.

Private sector speakers at yesterday's conference generally approved of the intention to develop broader liberalisation out of AFTA.

Chatchai Bunyarat, the chairman of the Food Processing Industry Club of the Federation of Thai Industries, compared participation in AFTA to competing in the Asian Games.

This would be an important step before entering "the Olympics"—global liberalisation under the GATT, he said.

But Mr Chatchai added that if Thai industry was to compete with the rest of the world, its raw materials should not have artificially high prices as a result of support intervention or price guarantees.

And he expressed concern about candidates for the forthcoming election promising to guarantee the prices of certain crops.

He cited as examples of high-cost materials agricultural produce and natural gas from the Gulf of Thailand.

Agriculture Ministry Permanent Secretary Yukti Sarikaphuti played down the impact of government agricultural pricing policies.

Price guarantees were difficult to implement and the effect of intervention was moderate, Mr Yukti said. But he acknowledged that if ministers insisted on price support for political reasons. Then officials' recommendations could be over looked.

Dr Narongchai said the implementation of AFTA would require three adjustments. ASEAN's customs classifications, which in broad terms were the same would have to be unified in detail, he said.

Common methods would have to be established to prove that an "ASEAN" product met the 40 percent minimum local content rule, Dr Narongchai said, and Thailand would have to develop methods of establishing whether a lower tariff caused "injury"—a criterion permitted to justify exemption from the AFTA schedule.

Dr Narongchai expressed confidence that Thailand would fulfil its AFTA obligations even though the Government had only a few days left in office.

The schedule agreed at the ASEAN Summit in Singapore last month would set the pace and if any Thai government failed to comply, the country will be discredited, he said.

Under the AFTA agreement tariff rates for all goods traded within the group currently exceeding 20 percent would be cut to 20 percent within five to eight years. By the year 2008, all tariffs for intra-ASEAN trade should be cut to 0-5 percent. Agricultural goods were excluded from AFTA.

Fifteen groups of products were selected for accelerated reduction: vegetable oils, cement, chemicals, fertiliser, plastics, rubber products, leather products, pulp, textiles, ceramic and glass products, gems and jewellery, copper cathodes, electronics and wooden and rattan furniture.

In addition, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun pledged in Singapore that Thailand would cut all tariffs charged on ASEAN products that exceeded 30 percent to that level by the end of this year.

Suchinda Says Army To Abide by Democratic System

BK2602005792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] The Armed Forces will abide by democratic ground rules following the March 22 general eletion even though they do not think the political system has improved since the coup d'etat a year ago.

Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday the Armed Forces would support a good government, and the Senate appointed by National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong on March 22 would act as the "protector" of a good government.

But if the government is "bad", it will not last, he added.

Speaking to Bangkok Post editor Phaisan Sicharatchanya, news editor Phichai Chunsuksawat and reporter Yuwadi Thanyasiri at the Army Auditorium, the army chief denied suggestions that the Senate would be made up mainly of military men. He said the Senate should represent people from all walks of life.

Gen Suchinda said the NPKC was "satisfied" with the performance of the Anan Panyarachun administration, but was disappointed that the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches could not be put into effect in the new Constitution.

He also admitted that the Assets Examination Committe had "not been as effective as it should be".

The army commander-in-chief and supreme commander described the coming elections as the time for people to decide who they have faith in and can trust.

"We consider the decision of the people to be the correct decision," he said.

No matter which MPs are elected to the next government, he said the NPKC would not become involved.

A democracy means listening to the majority.

"And what the majority wants we have to agree to. We can't think that only we are correct. We are not the only owners of the country."

Gen Suchinda said a return to the situation which prevailed before the February coup would be a misfortune for both the country and the people.

He said the military proportion in the next Senate would be no less than in the Chatchai Chunhawan administration, and the NPKC would not be able to exert its influence over the Senate as it would no longer exist.

A number of NPKC officials are scheduled to retire soon, so he said the "Big Brother" role of the Senate would rest with those members who belong to the Armed Forces.

Gen Suchinda claimed the Army had always abided by democratic ground rules, but could not "bear" the situation leading up to the coup last year.

"The Armed Forces are always the Armed Forces of the government. The Armed Forces have to support the government. If the government is good, the Armed Forces have no problem.

He refused to specify the main achievements of the NPKC in the last year, but admitted to two areas of disappointment.

He said the NPKC wanted to solve the problem of a "dictatorship in Parliament" by separating the executive and legislative powers, but this was not written into the Constitution.

There had been a misunderstanding of what the NPKC meant by "dictatorship in Parliament".

A political party with a majority in Parliament does not constitue a parliamentary dictatorship.

He said a parliamentary dictatorship occurred when a group of politicians wanted to use the democratic system to control the mechanism of politics, such as controlling district officers and provincial governors so they gained wholesale victory in elections.

The NPKC's solution to corruption in Parliament was the separation of powers, but it gave the constitution drafting committe a free hand in making decisions.

The power separation "is not how it turned out...since it did not come out as expected, we can't solve the problem in politics."

He said the situation would remain until people saw the need for change.

"This is a matter for the people to decide."

He also said the Assets Examination Committe had failed to perform as effectively as expected.

"We know there is corruption, but we can't get to the point where we want. There are certain things which we cannot trace," he said, referring to politicians' foreign bank accounts.

Overseas countries refuse to divulge bank details unless there is ia court order.

"But at least the committe has been able to show the people that there was some corruption."

Gen Suchinda said Counter-Corruption Commission regulations require all government officials to submit a list of their assets before assuming senior posts so the assets of senior military officers could be scrutinised similar to those investigated by the Assets Examination Committee.

He submitted a list of his own assets before becoming supreme commander and army chief.

"As a matter of principle under a democratic system, the prime minister should be a person chosen by the people," he said when asked about the next premier.

Gen Suchinda said he had no desire to become prime minister or even to be involved in politics by contesting an election.

"But I will not make any decision until it is time to do so. I cannot say I will do this or that when all the information is not ready. I have to wait and make a decision when all the information is available.

"The picture is not yet clear. A clearer picture will emerge after March 22," he said.

Vietnam

Army Paper Examines Bush Win in New Hampshire

BK2602104592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[From the daily "Press Review" program]

[Text] In an article entitled "New Hampshire: The Battle of Great Concern," the paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today says: In the process of electing a new U.S. president, this primary is of great significance to all who run for the White House because its results lay a foundation for the final victory. Since 1950, no presidential candidate has entered the White House without winning the New Hampshire primary.

A presidential primary election was held in New Hampshire on 18 February. Mr. Bush won in the election with 46 percent of the votes, while his opponent, Mr. Buchanan, got 43 percent. However, this was not the outcome that Mr. Bush expected because it was not worth the effort he made in organizing his costly election campaign. Before the day of the election, Mr. Bush and his wife, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Dan Quayle organized a grand dinner at a hotel in New Hampshire to campaign for the election. In the presence of 1,000 guests attending the dinner, most of them campaigners, Mr. Bush once again tried to highly appraise achievements he scored in carrying out U.S. foreign policy. He praised his own effort and capability in helping to resolve various international issues, including the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, the elimination of the cold war, the removal of the danger of a nuclear war, and victory in the Gulf war.

However, these foreign affairs achievements do not help to lessen the U.S. burden in its current economic crisis. On the contrary, the number of Bush supporters rapidly declined from 96 percent right after the Gulf war to 46 percent at present. President Bush himself admitted that this result was a reminder to him about voter dissatisfaction.

The fact that Mr. Buchanan came very close to President Bush with 43 percent of the votes was because Buchanan attacked the President's weak point in the economic domain at the right time. The primary results exceeded many people's expectations. For this reason, it cannot be predicted that because Mr. Bush was victorious in the New Hampshire primary it means he can stay in the White House for another term. It is a victory of great concern.

Vo Van Kiet Receives U.S. Business Delegation

BK2502160192 Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 25—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet cordially received here this afternoon the visiting American business delegation led by Ms. Mathilde Genovese, chairwoman of the Hong Kong-based Asia-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC).

Also present were Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and assistant secretary general of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry Pham Chi Lan.

The chairwoman spoke highly of Vietnam's socioeconomic achievements which she considered a good precedent for the development of investment and trade ties between the American and Vietnamese businessmen.

Though, she stressed, the APCAC businessmen are late, with the goodwill from both sides the trade ties between the two countries will see an opportunity for good development.

For his part, Chairman Vo Van Kiet pointed out: Vietnam is doing all it can to create opportunity for its friends, including U.S. economic organizations, to cooperate with Vietnam.

The chairman expressed his hope that the cooperation between APCAC and Vietnam would go beyond the economic limit, that is the friendship between the two nations.

He affirmed Vietnam's stance in normalizing the Vietnamese-U.S. relations, that is to let bygones be bygones and look forward to the future.

Vietnam, he said, highly appreciates the Americans who have come and will come to Vietnam, and contribute through their practical deeds to the development of the friendship between the two peoples of Vietnam and the United States.

Hanoi Hails Improved Ties to ASEAN Countries

BK2502152792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet will leave for an official friendship visit to the Philippines and Brunei soon. This visit will bring Vietnamese Government leaders to all capitals of the ASEAN countries within five months. On this event, our radio has this to say:

In recent months, the relations between Vietnam and ASEAN countries have been improving. The bilateral economic and political ties have developed with every passing day. After the official visit to Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore in October last year, Premier Vo Van Kiet has been invited for official visits by other ASEAN countries. Malaysia welcomed his visit last month and very soon the Philippines and Brunei will be his hosts. These events prove that the relations between Vietnam and ASEAN countries are on the stage of fine development.

Singapore is preparing to set up its embassy in Hanoi and although up to now there has not yet been a Singaporean diplomatic representation in Hanoi, the relationship between the two countries tends to develop positively. Singaporean Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng once affirmed his country's desire and resolve to develop cooperation with Vietnam.

Brunei, another ASEAN country without diplomatic relations with Vietnam, is now ready to follow suit and the coming visit to Brunei by Premier Vo Van Kiet is expected to help promote discussion on the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Evidently, by now all obstacles in the relations between Vietnam and ASEAN have been removed, and economic ties have been developing rapidly. Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar once affirmed that his country wishes to expand economic relations with Vietnam. Despite U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam, bilateral economic ties between Vietnam and Malaysia keep growing. In the recent visit to Malaysia by Premier Vo Van Kiet, an agreement on investment protection and promotion was signed. Other agreements on education, post, and one on avoiding double taxation will be finalized by the two countries.

Other ASEAN countries also promote their cooperation with Vietnam. Singapore's trade turnover with Vietnam is up by six times over the previous year, and Thailand is ASEAN's biggest investor in Vietnam with investment totalling $36.8 million. Meanwhile, cooperation between the Philippines and Vietnam also achieved encouraging results. Six years ago, when the relations between Vietnam and ASEAN were tense, the Philippines had an air link with Vietnam. The continued operation of the Manila-Ho Chi Minh City air route since then has contributed to promoting cooperation and investment of the Philippines and Vietnam. The coming visit to the country by the Vietnamese Government leaders will facilitate the development of bilateral ties.

Vietnam's prestige in Southeast Asia has been improving with [word indistinct] and high appraisal by regional countries. A correspondent of Thailand's English-language newspaper, THE NATION, Mr. Kawi Chongkitthawon is right in his remark that at present Vietnam has regained peace and has established friendship and cooperative relations with all neighboring countries in Southeast Asia.

Vo Van Kiet Begins Visit to Philippines, Brunei

Group Leaves Hanoi

BK2502151892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] On 25 February, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet left Hanoi for an official friendship visit to the Republic of the Philippines and the State of Brunei Darussalam at the invitations of President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei. Accompanying the chairman were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam; Dau Ngoc Xuan, head of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment; Vu Tien Hoang, deputy minister of agriculture and food industry; Vu Khoan, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Le Huu Duong, deputy minister of commerce and tourism; Bui Van Te, deputy minister of communications, transportation, and post and telegraph; and a number of high-ranking government officials.

During this visit, both sides will exchange views and set forth measures to stimulate and further promote the relations of friendship and multifaceted cooperation between Vietnam and the Philippines and the State of Brunei Darussalam.

Together with Chairman Vo Van Kiet's recent visits to Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia, this visit will contribute to further consolidating the mutual understanding and trust as well as the relations of friendship and cooperation between countries in the region, and to building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

NHAN DAN Comments on Tour

BK2602062992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Feb 92

["Excerpts" from 26 February NHAN DAN editorial: "Let's Strengthen Cooperation for the Sake of a New Southeast Asia"]

[Text] At the invitation of President Corazon C. Aquino of the Republic of the Philippines and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of the State of Brunei Darussalam, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet today begins his official visit to the Philippines and Brunei.

The Vietnamese people attach importance to their relations of friendship and cooperation with the ASEAN countries. Through the exchange of visits, culture, sports, tourism, science, technology, and cadre training, relations between the Philippines and Vietnam have, in the recent past, yielded a number of remarkable results. Two-way trade value increased from $12 million in 1988 to more than $100 million in 1990. Many major Philippine companies have come to our country to explore the market and investment opportunities.

Although Vietnam and Brunei have not yet formally established diplomatic relations, since Brunei declared its independence eight years ago, the two sides have exchanged official notes and visits by diplomatic delegations, thus making it possible for the peoples of the two countries to understand and move closer to each other. It was the agreement on civil aviation signed in late 1991 which paved the way for bilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit between the two countries.

We highly appraise the achievements recorded by the peoples of the ASEAN countries, including the Philippines and Brunei, in national construction and the defense of national sovereignty.

On this occasion, we sincerely thank the leaders and peoples of the Philippines and Brunei for having clearly demonstrated their goodwill in supporting Vietnam's declaration of its participation in the Bali treaty.

The new agreements between Vietnam and the countries visited by Chairman Vo Van Kiet recently and between Vietnam and the Philippines and Brunei in this visit will add new spans to the bridge of friendship between Vietnam and ASEAN for the sake of a new Southeast Asia, and contribute to South-South cooperation.

With the spirit of letting bygones be bygones and looking forward to the future to grasp the favorable opportunities opened by the situation in the world and the region, we are determined to strengthen the Vietnam-ASEAN relations of cooperation, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

French Communist Party Delegation Arrives 22 Feb

BK2402161392 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 2—A French Communist Party (FCP) delegation led by Gaston Plissonnier, member of the FCP Central Committee, arrived here on February 22 for a visit as guest of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV).

Talks were held here today between the visiting FCP delegation and a CPV delegation led by Hong Ha, secretary and head of the CPV Central Committee's external relations commission. Also present were, on the Vietnamese side, Hoang Van Hieu, deputy head of the Economic Commission and Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy head of the party's External Relations Commission. The two sides informed each other of the situation of the two parties and countries, exchanged views on international issues of mutual concern, and discussed measures to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the two parties. The talks took place in an atmosphere of traditional friendship.

Trade Ties With Germany To Be Promoted

BK2502080792 Hanoi VNA in English 0635 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 25—Mr. Hartmut Krebs, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and

Technology of the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen in the Federal Republic of Germany, told Vietnamese importers and exporters on Monday that though his state's turnovers in two-way trade with Vietnam remained low at around 51 million DM for the first 10 months of 1991, he believed the figure would rise in the near future.

Speaking at a meeting organized by the Hanoi office of the Friedrich Ebert Institute, Mr. Krebs briefed the audience on Nordrhein-Westfalen's economic potentials, particularly industrial products which, he said, can be bartered for Vietnam's light industrial products and farm produce.

Nordrhein-Westfalen has for several years now been selling to Vietnam electronic products, machines, steel pipes and lorries.

Mr. Krebs is leading a delegation from his ministry on a fact-finding tour. He has met with concerned government officials and discussed with them ways to better bilateral economic and commercial relations.

Indonesian Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK2402161992 Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 24—Indonesian Ambassador to Vietnam Juwana today presented his credentials to Vice President of the State Council Nguyen Huu Tho. The Vietnamese leader had a cordial talk with the Indonesian diplomat.

XINHUA Director General Concludes Visit

BK2502154792 Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 25—China News Agency (XINHUA) Director General Mu Qing left Ho Chi Minh City yesterday, concluding his nine-day visit to Vietnam.

While here, Director General Mu Qing and his party visited Hanoi, the port city of Haiphong, Ho Chi Minh City and some other localities.

Right after their arrival here, the Chinese guests paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, visited his home and office.

On Feb. 18, they were received by Dao Duy Tung, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV).

Director General Mu Qing also met with officials of the CPV CC's [Central Committee's] Ideology and Culture Commission and External Relations Commission, the Press and Information Department of the Foreign Ministry and discussed professional experiences with his Vietnamese colleagues at HAIPHONG and LIBERATED SAIGON newspapers.

Director General Do Phuong of the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY and his Chinese counterpart reviewed the initial results in the implementation of the information cooperation agreement signed in Nov. 1991. The two sides expressed their satisfaction over the quick establishment of the satellite communication link between the two agencies, and discussed measures to promote the technological cooperation with a view to accelerating XINHUA's supply of information, especially information on China and international affairs, to Vietnam.

Director General Mu Qing expressed his wish to develop the cooperation between the two agencies and affirmed that XINHUA would do its best to help VNA in the exchange of information, professional experiences, and technology.

Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei was present in a number of activities of the XINHUA delegation.

Ho Chi Minh City Hosts Conference on Media Work

BK2402135992 Hanoi VNA in English 0627 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 24—A conference on press and publication work in southern provinces was held in Ho Chi Minh City on Feb. 20-22 by the party Central Committee [CC] Secretariat and the Council of Ministers.

The conference was presided over by Nguyen Duc Binh, Politburo member of the party CC, and Nguyen Khanh, member of the party CC and vice premier.

The participants noted the remarkable growth and quantitative and qualitative development of the press and publication and their effective role as the voice of the party, state and social organisations and at the same time as the forum of the people in the socio-economic renovation process. The press has also brought out and praised the new and exemplary events and people while condemming corruption and other negative phenomena, and denouncing distortions of the party and government policies.

The conference also pointed to weaknesses and mistakes of the press in the past years. For instance, many articles about negative phenomena were not accurate, there have been too few publications about the mountain regions and ethnic minorities while commercialization of the press tends to increase with too much stress being laid on sex, crime, litigation, superstition. Many foreign books and video films with contents harmful to the education of the national traditions and ethics especially among youngsters, have been published or imported.

The conference pointed to the task of the press and publication in the coming period to contribute to stabilising the political situation, promoting the process of renovation to make the Marxist-Leninist outlook and Ho Chi Minh's thought, virtues and lifestyle predominate in the spiritual life of society. It also called on the press to intensify the fight again the peaceful evolution scheme of the anti-socialist force and to help foster the personality and intelligence of the Vietnamese people.

Powerline To Ease Electricity Shortages Approved

BK2502134392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report on a conference held in Ho Chi Minh City to discuss installation of a 1,500-km powerline to channel electricity from northern to southern Vietnam; date of conference not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On the morning of the sixth day [9 February] of Tet when their jubilant Tet mood began to recede, people in southern provinces began worrying anew about the recurrence of power outages that used to occur 4-5 days a week. With such an electricity situation, what will happen to daily life and production? Incidentally, a conference was held in Ho Chi Minh City to discuss a Council of Ministers' decision to install a 1,500-km, trans-Vietnam powerline to channel electricity from the north to the south. We have taken note of this good news during the new year celebration and are hereby presenting it to you, friends:

Various reports presented by the energy sector at the conference were found to be straightfoward and scientifically descriptive. Because this project is characteristic of a state-level economic project that will affect all socio-economic activities of the country, we should uncompromisingly go ahead with its construction.

This is the first time that the state has invested a huge sum of money—2,644 billion Vietnamese dong, which is equivalent to 300 million U.S. dollars—in an energy project.

According to Deputy Minister of Energy Le Lien, among various plans to develop power sources and power networks in order to meet electricity requirements of the three regions, the plan to promptly put the north-south high-voltage powerline into operation is the most economically beneficial one. This powerline will use the surplus electric power of the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant and of those thermoelectric power plants in the north that are cheaply powered by anthracite. Thus, it will help save a remarkable amount of foreign currency needed for importing diesel oil and, at the same time, will help develop the effectiveness of various hydroelectric and thermoelectric power plants throughout the country.

In the initial stage the powerline will be capable of chanelling some 150 megawatts to central Vietnam and 400-500 megawatts to southern Vietnam—well above the present total output of the Tri An power plant. Its potential for bringing electricity to central Vietnam will increase to 400 megawatts and to southern Vietnam from 700-800 megawatts, which are equivalent to 3 billion kw/hr.

Right after Deputy Minister Le Lien presented his report, many participants raised their views surrounding various matters such as capital, work implementation, and effects of this project. The total investment figure of over 2,600 billion Vietnamese dong has given the Council of Ministers a headache at a time when the national budget is still tight.

Initial calculations show that the planned expense for each kilometer of powerline averages 60,000 U.S. dollars. The powerline will be 1,500-km long traversing much complex terrain, including those areas frequently hit by natural calamities every year. With such weather conditions, how can there not be incidents on the power network?

Deputy Minister of Energy Le Lien said: In the economic-technological feasibility plan for the north-south high-voltage powerline, we have carefully taken into account all situations. He said, however, that it would be most inconvenient if there are troubles on the Hoa Binh-Danang portion of the powerline. In such a case, central Vietnam will be supported by the 220-kv Vinh-Hue powerline, which is to be partly fuelled by locally available diesel oil and reinforced by the 110-kv Da Nhim-Nhatrang powerline. For the southern electricity network, it could mobilize the source of emergency electricity to make up for electricity shortfalls whenever the trans-Vietnam powerline develops troubles.

The economic-technological feasibility plan also shows that the Hoa Binh-Danang powerline will follow Strategic Route No. 15 from Danang to Pleiku and then from Pleiku to Phu Lam along Strategic Vehicular Route No. 14. These powerlines are designed to bypass populated centers and construction projects near National Highway No. 1-A, and to get maximum protection from stormy winds as well as the proportion of salinity caused by sea water infiltration.

Most of the questions on this strategic project raised for discussion and debate were clearly answered when Council of Minsiters Chairman Vo Van Kiet stated calmly and enthusiastically that the Political Bureau and the Council of Ministers had decided to build and promptly install the high-voltage powerline.

Along with urgently carrying out various plans to supplement the southern source of thermoelectric power, efforts should be made to continue to accelerate the pace of various hydroelectric power projects now under construction in the south and to promptly turn the source of natural gas of the Vung Tau oil and gas company into a main source of fuel for thermoelectric power plants by the end of 1993 at the latest.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet emphasized: The state has decided not to export any kilowatts of electricity from the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant, whose output now temporarily exceeds the demands of the north. It is necessary to urgently build the trans-Vietnam powerline to channel electricity from the north to the south because it is no longer acceptable for electricity outages to occur in Ho Chi Minh City four to five times a week. This has substantially hampered foreign cooperation and investment in the city and has caused activities in production and life to become sluggish or stagnant as a result of electricity shortages.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet quickly resolved right at the conference an urgent request by the Ministry of Energy to promptly start construction of the 550-kv north-south high-voltage powerline on 30 April and to allocate foreign currency to use as a down payment for the purchase of three 37-megawatt gas turbines from France to deal with electricity shortages in the south during the 1993-94 dry season. He asked Mr. Tran Huu Lac, director general of the Vietnam Oil and Gas Import-Export Corporation, to immediately loan 10 million U.S. dollars to the Ministry of Energy to build the high-voltage powerline and another 5 million U.S. dollars to Electricity Corporation No. 2 to carry out a plan to supplement the southern source of electricity.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet emphatically said: Now that we are already late, we should not count our time by quarter, by month, or by day but rather by hour. This trans-Vietnam power project should bear the character of urgency and rapidity, as has the Ho Chi Minh campaign. It is essential that we ensure the quality of this project. Although one of the decisive factors for successful construction of this project is capital, we should not cite this as a pretext to wait for aid and loans from the World Bank. The Council of Ministers will strive by all means to ensure the pace of its construction. If there is a need to mobilize capital from the people, we should strive to put down some gold as a security deposit and leave the address of the agency that borrows the money.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet also jokingly said: If the Ministry of Energy can satisfactorily fulfill the task of putting the high-voltage powerline into operation and exerting its efforts to complete construction of the powerline to bring electricity to the south by 1994, instead of 1996 as previously planned, the Council of Ministers will build a statue dedicated to the ministry. In case the ministry fails to do so, the Council of Ministers will also build a statue dedicated to the ministry, but this statue will be moulded upside down.

Amid an enthusiastic atmosphere as the Council of Ministers has created favorable conditions for the project and has supported it right from the outset, Deputy Minister Le Lien also presented preparations for the start of construction.

On 8 February, or the fourth day of Tet, a delegation of the Ministry of Energy left for Ukraine to purchase iron and steel materials. On the fifth day of Tet, the delegation sent a message home that Ukraine had accepted our order and details of the deal would be reported later. On 6 February, or the third day of Tet, a delegation of 30 engineers and cadres of the Nhatrang Sub-Institute for Electricity Planning set out to conduct a technical survey over a 217-km stretch of land which extends from Danang to the Ya-Li hydroelectric power project site and which runs along the Truong Son mountain range through various mountain districts in the western part of Quang Nam-Danang and Gia Lai-Cong Tum Provinces.

The Ministry of Energy has also assigned Powerline and Transformer Station Installing Corporations No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 the responsibility of building certain portions of the powerline.

Also to ensure the pace of construction, in addition to the four powerline installing corporations of the Ministry of Energy, there are many other units—such as the Army, the Post Office General Department, and the Ministry of Construction—also participating in the construction in accordance with a plan advocating that each unit be responsible for the construction of 10 km of the 150-km long powerline and that the method of moving construction units from one portion of the powerline to another, as has been applied in other projects, will be avoided.

Everything is being made ready for the spontaneous starting day of construction on 30 April 1992.

Role of Socialist Intelligentsia Viewed

BK2502064792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Article by Khong Doan Hoi: "Intelligentsia, a Cornerstone Member of our State"]

[Text] A new point concerning the state in the wake of the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam is that while determining the cornerstone forces of our state—the state of the people, by the people, and for the people—our party mentions not only the worker-peasant alliance but also the alliance of the working class, the peasantry, and the intelligentsia. That intelligentsia in our country is considered a cornerstone member of our state not only manifests the appreciation of our party and people for the very important position and role of the intelligentsia in the construction and defense of the socialist homeland, but also the expansion and steadiness of the sociopolitical foundations of our country.

The determination of the new position of the intelligentsia under the new revolutionary conditions is based on objective scientific arguments. This is not a demagogic trick to flatter intellectuals with a view to calming somewhat the dissatisfaction of the intelligentsia with a contemptuous attitude toward it. Nor is it a repentance over the past mistakes of looking down on intelligentsia. Inheriting from the national tradition of considering intelligentsia a vital cell of the nation and a precious asset of the country, our party and state symbolically represented by President Ho Chi Minh, since the very time when the people's administration was still embryonic, has truly respected the intelligentsia and has correctly assessed the merits of patriotic intellectuals in the national liberation struggle.

Our party and people have realized that before winning a victory in combat trenches, we must win victory in the intellectual field. In this connection, it is impossible not to mention the great contributions of patriotic intellectuals. Typical are those who have been worshipped as national heroes by our people. Yet, faced with the great changes of the time, our party has promptly realized that we have wasted a large amount of valuable brain of the nation. Worthy of attention is that we have not realized nor turned our respect for intellectuals into a social custom and that the implementation of the party policies toward intellectuals in reality is still hampered by many difficulties and obstacles. Such criticism has indicated that our party and state have more or less experienced shortcomings in their attitude toward intellectuals. However, it does not mean that our party and state have some contempt for intellectuals because our party and state have experienced more or fewer shortcomings not only toward the intelligentsia but also shortcomings and even serious mistakes toward workers, especially peasants considered the main force of the revolution. As a result, if we spoke of respect and implied the elimination of all shortcomings, we would never be able to attain such an ideal respect.

Now the intelligentsia has been listed as a cornerstone member and one of the sociopolitical foundations of our state. Is this only a first step toward genuine respect for intellectuals? And does it mean there was no such respect in the past? Obviously, it is not so at all. Everyone can make his own assessment as he likes but the fate of the revolution, of tens of millions of people's lives, does not permit any casual impulsive assessment.

Just consider in the past, in the immediate wake of the August revolution victory and during the period of the people's democratic revolution, who composed the intelligentsia? Evidently, it was almost, if not totally, composed of those who came from the propertied classes and were closely attached to those classes. In reality, although there were intellectuals with propertied class background who volunteered to side with the working class stand, and even though the number of such people was increasing every day along with the victorious momentum of the revolution, in general, due to many different causes, not all of them had a nationalist and revolutionary mind. Quite a number of persons went to the other side of the combat trenches and personally joined the ruling machinery to suppress the revolution, and quite a number of people crept under the quilt and tricked themselves into sleeping with a dose of being unconcerned with politics. This means that the intelligentsia did exist but the sociopolitical conditions for it to become the sociopolitical cornerstone of the state were still insufficient.

Through a few decades of national construction and defense, the social bases of the revolution have changed. Now, an absolute majority of intellectuals are children of workers and peasants who have been trained under the socialist regime and been forged and tested in combat and production. The intelligentsia has now been changed qualitatively from the class viewpoint. In other words, the socialist revolution in the cultural and ideological domains has built its own contingent of intellectuals for the country, an intelligentsia with worker-peasant background, which is closely attached to workers and peasants even though it is not a component of the working class, nor is it a separate class.

The intelligentsia is respected as a class closely connected with creativity, new things and renovation, and with the production resulting from new knowledge aimed at developing the treasury of national brain. It is absolutely not respected as a superior class of geniuses who maintain that the ruling technique nowadays is mainly to make people aware of how to go about following their guidance.

The assertion of the new position and role of the intelligentsia in our country is argued not only on the basis of such a qualitative change. Such a connecting method, though necessary, is insufficient. The class must still be considered in the new revolutionary stage and the historic background of the revolution. Socialism, in principle, is a social regime higher than capitalism. Its typical characteristic lies in its labor productivity that is much higher than that of modern capitalism, which means that it must inherit from and develop capitalist progress.

Without a contingent of intellectuals, such a work would be impossible and scientific socialism would not exist. We must realize that our current national construction is taking place in the setting of a technological revolution. New trends have appeared in the economic field. An objective trend is the manufacture of ever more products of high technical standards, those products whose brain value accounts for the main part in production costs.

In the technological revolution, both techniques and resources are reflected in the so-called grey matter of man. Intellectual labor has played an ever more decisive role in production.

A new viewpoint on ownership of brain has come into being and has been of ever more decisive significance. Science might be said to be becoming a direct production force. An intellectual economy has appeared. In such a situation, if we want to have a place in the international economy, we must step by step raise the intellectual standard of our economy by developing our strength, the Vietnamese people. We will need two new factors: capital and a contingent of scientific and technical cadres and intellectuals, and the second is the most decisive.

The shifting of our economy to a market mechanism in today's era is also a very great challenge, first of all, to the intellectuals and not yet to the businessmen. The problem is that a market economy, no matter where it exists, it still is an economy of fierce competition. A competitive trade and even an antagonistic trade is in fact competition in the intellectual, scientific, technological and managerial fields. To sum up, it is competition of knowledge and genius. The determination of the position and role of intellectuals in our country and the respect for the intelligentsia are based on these connecting methods. However, as one usually says, the gap between words and action might be the longest distance.

To eliminate this gap, there must be effort from two sides: the party and state and the contingent of intellectuals itself. Without minimum conditions, it would be difficult for intellectuals to develop all their potential. Yet, if intellectuals do not strive to assert themselves in reality by their contributions, though small yet practical, to promptly extricating the country from the crisis of poverty and backwardness, it would be also difficult to make the sense of respect for intellectuals a social custom.

'Crumbling' of European, Soviet Socialism Viewed

BK2402143192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Doan Chuong essay on "far-reaching reasons that led to the crisis and crumbling of East European socialist countries and of the Soviet Union"]

[Text] Following the crumbling of the socialist regime in the Soviet Union, the center of the revolution, the imperialists and their lackey hack-writers have gleefully thought that other remaining socialist countries would also follow suit. Among the popular masses, inevitably there are people who do not totally believe that our regime can stand on its feet. Here, we have a question to be interpreted: that is, the question concerning the relationship and the differences between crisis and collapse—in order to come up with a correct course of action.

Through the development of the situation in the Soviet Union as well as in East Europe, one can see that the situation there was initially that of a socioeconomic crisis. This later turned into a political crisis and eventually led to a collapse. Between crisis and collapse there is apparently an internal relationship. Crisis creates premises for a collapse, and a collapse has its root in a crisis. But is it right that crisis will lead to collapse? It is not necessarily so.

Monitoring the world situation, one can see that, faced with the development of the modern scientific and technological revolution, both socialism and capitalism are bogged down in a crisis. This is easily understood because the production force is always the sole factor for social development. But capitalism has not succumbed because it knows how to adapt itself to the situation, adjust itself, and benefit from those achievements of the modern scientific and technological revolution to arrive at new economic and technological achievements. This very reason has helped us overcome simplistic arguments about the death throes of capitalism.

As for socialism, even with its strengths and its system of public ownership, it has missed an important opportunity to exploit its new modern scientific and technological achievements and has therefore become involved in a deeper crisis.

Naturally, the message for socialism is that it should improve, renovate, or reform itself. Otherwise, it will not survive and develop. Improvement, renovation, and reform are an objective inevitability and a vital demand on contemporary character. Therefore, they have consistently received widespread support from everywhere. But in this connection there exist two tendencies that have brought two different results. Countries like China and Vietnam, thanks to the carrying out of their renovation and reform in the right direction, have escaped from socioeconomic crisis and have scored important achievements, the most important of which being their ability to find a suitable way to move forward.

In the Soviet Union and East Europe, although people used to talk about restructuring and reform, it was actually an alteration or change of direction, and this led to their collapse. Thus, both capitalism and socialism can stand firmly on their own feet and develop if they know how to deal with the situation correctly. Conversely, if they deal with the situation incorrectly, their socioeconomic crisis will develop into a political crisis and will eventually lead to their collapse. Although these factors are interrelated, it is clear that crisis and collapse have their own causes.

So, why has socialism been plunged into a crisis? Taking advantage of the crisis facing socialism as well as of the crumbling of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the imperialists and their henchmen have publicly cast the blame on the communist ideology and have strongly criticized Marxism-Leninism. This is not unusual at all. Regrettably, some of us have become disoriented and have bought such an erroneous argument.

Indeed, ideology is a complicated issue. For example, although religion obviously lacks a scientifically solid basis, it still wins the hearts of millions of people. A scientific study of the history of mankind's thinking clearly indicates that, far from being a separate part of mankind's civilization, Marxism-Leninism is a high quality creation of that same civilization.

As far as the present era is concerned, Marxism-Leninism is a scientific and revolutionary world outlook which provides people with a scientific tool to understand and then consolidate the world revolutionary movement. Marxism-Leninism consits of fundamental principles and concrete concepts. To avoid mistakes, those fundamental principles covering matters of common practice call for conclusions based on actual facts and need to be creatively put into practice. As for those concrete concepts, they could be of value only in fixed time and space. On no account is servile or mechanical imitation advisable.

It is dogmatic, rigid thinking which has caused a serious obstacle to the creative application and development of Marxist-Leninist principles in response to the constant changes of life. It is true that, as Reid put it, reasoning remains unchanged whereas life keeps changing.

Many people have traced the underlying cause of the crisis back to the socialist modality. The planning and building of a new social system—the socialist system—is not easy at all. The reason is because it involves a newly-traced path. Capitalism did not take form until after hundreds of years had gone by and its course of development was not a smooth one. Here, one should adopt an impartial attitude toward historical developments. It was thanks to that very socialist modality of days gone by that the Soviet Union turned itself from a poorly developing country into a world superpower. Furthermore, it was owing to their close attachment to the new socialist system that the Soviet people were willing to risk their own lives to defend that system and that millions of them sacrificed themselves to save mankind from the evil of fascism.

It is not advisable to raise the issue and then try to ignore it in a simplistic way. What needs to be drawn from the old modality concerns the issues related to the building of a system which guarantees the laboring people's right of mastership and to labor productivity. Here, it involves dogmatic, rigid thinking seen in a number of key areas as follows:

In their study of the capitalist system and development of human society, Marx and Engels—the founders of scientific socialism—concluded with much scientifically solid evidence that, according to objective law, capitalism would certainly be replaced by imperialism and, as such, the socialist revolution would break out at a poorly welded link of the capitalist chain, where the starting point of socialist construction in general would remain at a low or very low level. This means that socialist construction cannot be carried out directly. Instead, it must undergo many difficult, long periods of transition. After a short period of wartime communism, Lenin quickly applied the new economic policy. However, following Lenin's death, no importance was attached to his thinking.

Socialism has but a sole objective. Yet, there are different paths, forms, and measures to carry out socialist construction depending on the starting point and on the concrete historical conditions of each country. However, generally speaking, when they first began socialist construction, all countries concerned copied the Soviet modality, regarding it as a model.

Marx and Engels devoted much time to studying capitalism and Lenin made an in-depth study of imperialism in a bid to consolidate their thinking and policies. The economic system during the period of transition to socialism, especially during the period following the formation of a conflicting bipolar world, and the struggle to determine who will triumph over whom between socialism and capitalism constitute the indispensable law governing the course of development of the times. However, we nurtured a dogmatic, rigid thinking, applying the system of bureaucratic centralism and maintaining a two-world system and two-market system. Worse still, we failed to firmly grasp the economic strength, which has a final say in the struggle to determine who will triumph over whom. Therefore, we have missed a good opportunity to make use of the new achievements of the scientific-technological revolution to promote economic growth and improvements in living conditions, thus plunging the entire socialist system into a crisis.

As for the reasons for the collapse, it is clear that because of incorrect restructuring and reform, the socioeconomic crisis developed into a political crisis and eventually led to a collapse. Here, the main crisis was contemporary revisionist opportunism which served as an agent or an insider force for capitalism to effect its peaceful evolution and to conduct sabotage from the inside out.

It can be dialectically argued that rigid dogmatic thinking was the main cause for socialism falling into an economic crisis and for people's lives encountering numerous difficulties. Capitalism, on the other hand, resolved its crisis and produced new economic and technological achievements. The existence of doubtful and vacillating thinking is a good environment in which revisionist opportunism can emerge and develop. It is revisionist opportunism which caused the restructuring and reform to stray from their course and this helped capitalism create an inside force to effect its peaceful evolution, resulting in the bitter collapse.

The general characteristics of revisionist opportunism are to regulate social class, blend socialism with capitalism, and exercise a renovated policy of achieving reconciliation and compromise with imperialism. But the existence of contemporary revisionist opportunism was noted in various ruling parties, especially in the Soviet Union—an international superpower, the center of the world revolution, and also a theoretical superpower. Its multifaceted dangerous and harmful character is therefore unfathomable.

Theoretically, they went from doubts over the value of Marxism-Leninism, and a suffocation of it, to a negation and then a total renunciation of Marxism-Leninism. Politically, they thought that with an improvised opportunistic line patterned after democratic socalism, they could introduce the so-called Western values such as democracy, human rights, political pluralism, a multi-opposition party system, and a free market economy based on privatization with the main aim of renouncing the ruling role and mandate of the working class and of communist parties and then proceeding toward a betrayal of socialism and a succumbing and surrender to imperialism. Ideologically, they craved for nationalism in addition to their personal ambitions. In terms of ruling force, they held great power and were encouraged and given a helping hand by imperialism.

Revisionist opportunism is always a natural ally of imperialism and is nurtured and exploited by the latter. Therefore, the fight against imperialism should be carried out simultaneously with the struggle against revisionist opportunism, and vice versa. This well-known argument by Lenin is of great significance in the current times and the persistent struggle against revisionist opportunism to protect and creatively develop Marxism is a wonderful example for us to follow.

To put it briefly, we should renovate ourselves because without renovation we will not be able to survive and develop. However, we should not change our direction because by so doing we will fall into the imperialist trap and will therefore lose everything. In other words, we should renovate ourselves and not change our direction. We should not change our direction and should instead renovate ourselves. Ideologically, we should struggle on both fronts: namely, the front to prevent and oppose revisionist opportunism and the front to overcome rigid domatic thinking.

Bank Issues Decision on Savings, Loans

BK2502070192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Under the authority of the Council of Ministers, on 21 February 1992 the governor of the Vietnam State Bank [VSB] issued Decision 42 on banks' capital mobilization and loan offerings based on gold as follows:

The VSB authorizes state commercial banks, the Investment and Development Bank, and the Gold, Silver, and Precious Stone General Company, depending on their position and duty, to mobilize money and offer loans with gold guarantee to attract unused capital and savings among the people for middle- and long-term loans to national economic units, including state and private economic units and shared companies.

Population Growth To Drop by End of Decade

BK2502080192 Hanoi VNA in English 0639 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.25—Between now and 2000 Vietnam's population growth rate will drop steadily from 2.17 percent to 1.69 percent while the number of people fit to work will increase continuously from nearly 33 million to almost 43.5 million.

According to predictions by the Centre for Population Information, by the end of this year the country's population is expected to reach 68.884 million, 4.509 million more than the figure made available by the last census in April 1989.

In 1990 , there were 31.777 million people in the working group, or 48 percent of the national population. The rate will be 0.6 percent higher this year. By 2000, it will rise to 54.2 percent, or 43.448 million persons out of a population of 79.973 million.

The population of Ho Chi Minh City, the biggest city of Vietnam, was 4,038,388 in 1991. It will be 4,266,058 in 1995 and 4,521,847 in 2000.

At the same time the working-age group in the city is expected to swell from 2,403,596 in 1991 to 2,595,198 in 1995 and 2,828,729 in 2000.

Australia

Minister Accuses Khmer Rouge of Breaching Accord

BK2602034092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] An Australian Government minister has accused the Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia of breaching the peace accord. Defense Science Minister Gordon Bilney made the statement after visiting Australian troops in the UN peacekeeping contingent and presenting medals to them. Nick Stewart reports:

[Begin recording] Australia provides most of the UN soldiers keeping the peace in Cambodia. But, after a tour of the country, Minister Bilney is asking if the Khmer Rouge really wants peace. He says they are not doing enough. The guerrillas are trying to stop the UN officials from traveling through their areas.

The minister's comments follow earlier criticism of the resistance factions from the commander of the UN peacekeepers. [end recording]

Keating Unveils Economic Reform, Spending Package

BK2602101692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1010 GMT 26 Feb 92

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Sydney, Feb 26 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating unveiled Wednesday a 2.3 billion dollar (1.7 billion U.S.) spending package and reforms aimed at spurring economic recovery and creating 800,000 jobs.

The package, which Keating called "a four year strategy for growth in the 1990's," involved a new tax regime, infrastructure development, job training and a more liberal environment for foreign investment and banking.

Keating, whose government faces election next year, said by the time his strategy had run its course in 1995-96, the government budget would be back in surplus.

Most people would be paying a marginal rate of only 30 percent tax, he said.

Further, the economy would have grown 15 percent in that four-year period and unemployment would be 3 percentage points lower at just over 7 percent.

His economic blueprint was the result of 10 weeks of talks with business, union, and community leaders in the search for ideas about lifting the country out of recession and reducing unemployment of 10.3 percent.

"This statement is very much about making this nation strong," Keating told Parliament in Canberra.

The statement was also Keating's response to the conservative opposition's proposals released late last year and featuring as its centerpiece lower income taxes in exchange for a 15 percent goods and services tax.

It was former prime minister Bob Hawke's failure to counter the opposition package that Keating cited as his reason for ousting Hawke in a leadership battle last December.

Keating said the government wanted to "get things moving."

The 1991-92 budget forecast was for a deficit of 4.7 billion. dollars (3.5 billion U.S.) though that can now be expected to come in at around 5.5 billion dollars (4.1 billion U.S.) on additional spending approved prior to the statement.

Most of the impact will not be felt until 1992-93.

Keating said low inflation remained the priority—the statement forecasts a rate of around 3.5 percent during the four-year period—and trade unions had agreed to help by limiting wage claims.

Among major projects announced by Keating was a standard gauge railway linking Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth at a cost of 498.5 million dollars (374 million U.S.) over two years.

The link, along with port improvements, would speed freight movement and lower transport costs to make Australian exports more competitive. Roads will be upgraded at a cost of 602.5 million dollars (451.6 million U.S.) over three years.

Keating's statement contained a new air transport policy binding Australia and New Zealand as a single market.

International flag carrier Qantas is to be allowed to fly domestic routes, with Air New Zealand joining at a later stage, and domestic carriers Australian and Ansett will gain access to New Zealand.

As a further boost to the economy, foreign investment and foreign banking have been given a more liberal environment.

More foreign banking licenses will be issued—there are now 14—and banks will be allowed to conduct wholesale banking through branches, though retail banking would require establishment of a subsidiary.

Offshore banking units have been granted a concessional tax rate of 10 percent, greatly improving the ability of Australian cities to compete with Singapore in becoming regional financial centres as Hong Kong approaches 1997.

To attract more foreign investment, there is a tenfold increase to 50 million dollars (37.5 million U.S.) in the value of projects exempt from Foreign Investment Review Board scrutiny and new mines will no longer need to find 50 percent local equity.

Keating said his initiatives would help build a productive base for Australian exports, which had the potential to increase by 20 billion dollars (15 billion U.S.) by 1994, 13 billion dollars (9.7 billion U.S.) of which would head to Asia.

The statement forecasts strong economic growth through to 1995-96 and beyond, with substantial reductions in unemployment and continued low inflation.

Growth in gross domestic product dollars (GDP) is forecast to average 4.25 percent a year to 1995-96. Employment is expected to grow at an average 3 percent a year in the period, with unemployment down to 7.75 percent by 1995-96.

Amnesty Urges Philippines on Human Rights

BK2602061792 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Amnesty International wants Australia to urgently take up the issue of human rights with the Philippine Government. The human rights group said links through aid, trade relations, and expatriates gave Australia the leverage to seek guarantees from President Corazon Aquino.

Deirdre Martin in Manila says Amnesty's call follows the release of a report claiming hundreds of unarmed Filipinos have been killed by government forces during the past three years.

[Begin recording] [Martin] In a report entitled "The Killing Goes On," Amnesty International says more than 550 people have been victims of political killings by government or government-backed forces in the Philippines since 1988.

It says that whole families, including infants and the very elderly, had been massacred and women had been raped by gangs of soldiers before being stabbed to death. Amnesty says the trade unionists, human right lawyers, religious leaders, and peasant activists had been particularly targeted by the military. It says that under the Aquino government the military has continued to play its dominant role in the country's political life, but many of the military's victims have not been committed to these groups. [end recording]

New Zealand

Minister Notes New Caledonia Trade Barriers Lifted

BK2602100192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0903 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Wellington, Feb 26 (AFP)—New Caledonia, a French Pacific territory, has lifted trade barriers on 400 commodities from New Zealand, Trade Minister Don Mckinnon said here Wednesday.

The French territory had previously had stringent market barriers, but New Zealand still managed to export 31 million New Zealand dollars (16 million U.S.) worth of goods there annually, Mckinnon said in a statement.

"The decision to liberalise access for New Zealand exports is clear evidence of the improved relations we now have with the authorities in New Caledonia," he said.

"The liberalisation measures reflect the efforts being made by France and New Caledonia to integrate the French territory more fully into South Pacific affairs and encourage cooperation with countries in the region," he added.

Products which can now be freely exported to New Caledonia include wine, fish, cheese, beef, sheepmeats, leather, rubber goods, newsprint, wood pulp, wool, carpets, ceramic products, iron and steel, aluminium, prefabricated buildings and furniture.

Goods imported on the basis of a "freely available" licence include poultry, pet foods, animal feed, mineral water, yachts and netting, fencing and barbed wire.